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BIND

America

November 15, 1952

Vol. 88, Number 7

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WEEKLY REVIEW

CHILDREN'S BOOK ISSUE

**Children's books:
yesterday, today**

RICHARD J. HURLEY

**Needed: a policy for
the Missouri Valley**

MARK J. FITZGERALD



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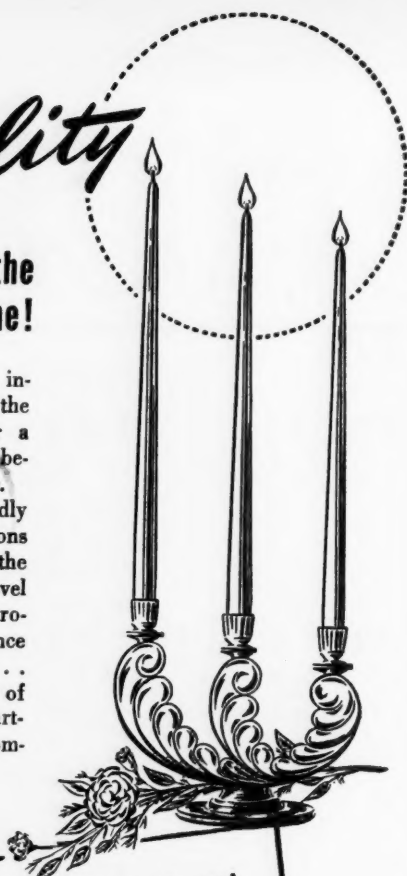
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Forward in unity

American fellow-citizens traditionally accuse each other of undermining the Republic right up to the eve of a national election—and then on the day after the voting congratulate the victors and promise them their loyal support. Governor Stevenson's statement accepting his defeat in the wee hours of "the day after" was very gracefully expressed and in our best tradition. President Truman's request of President-elect Eisenhower later that day to "have a representative meet with the director of the Bureau of the Budget immediately" and his offer of the Presidential plane for the General's trip to Korea were more unprecedented, in keeping with the crisis, which prompted them. Mr. Eisenhower's unhesitating acceptance of the first proposal was his first public action towards unifying the country, in accordance with his oft-repeated campaign promise. His courteously worded reply that "any suitable transport plane" would do and his promise that, "with your permission, I shall give the Secretary of Defense the earliest possible notice of my proposed date of departure" gave added proof that bipartisanship is back in business. The President-elect really never took issue with the legislative program of the Truman Administration. The election landslide, moreover, was Eisenhower's personally, not the Republican party's. The exceptionally close congressional and gubernatorial races prove that American public opinion stands balanced at the center between partisan extremes. God grant that all of us may join together on that middle ground under our new President. Nothing less is worthy of our country.

Toward a liberal immigration policy

The transcontinental tour of the President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization, which was climaxed by three days of hearings in Washington (Oct. 27-29), will soon be discussed at length in these pages. Let it suffice for now to note a few facts about this new departure in policy formulation. The seven-man panel held fifteen days of public hearings in eleven cities—New York, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Paul, Detroit, St. Louis, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Washington. More than 350 persons spoke for or against the McCarran-Walter Act, which Congress passed over President Truman's veto last June. In every city the hearings made the headlines. Unquestionably, the local citizens learned a lot about the extremely complicated immigration question. It should not be difficult to build, on the basis of the Commission's experiences, a new and valuable technique for public education on national issues. Why not, for example, televise such hearings locally? During the investigation just completed, on which the Commission will report by Jan. 1, nearly ninety per cent of the witnesses opposed the McCarran-Walter Act. Authorized spokesmen for the major Catholic, Jewish and Protestant organizations registered strong opposition. Catholic representatives, who testified in all but one of the cities visited, unanimously objected to the Act.

CURRENT COMMENT

The culmination came during the Washington hearings, when both Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, director of War Relief Services—NCWC, and Bruce Mohler, director of NCWC's Immigration Bureau, recommended that a substitute be sought for the discriminatory national-origins quota system which the McCarran-Walter Act perpetuates. Such support should encourage the Commission to call for reconsideration of the basic philosophy of the unpopular legislation.

Sentimentality at the deathbed

Some salutary words were spoken recently by the president of the Baton Rouge Catholic Physicians' Guild. They deserve to be called to the attention of both doctors and heads of families. Speaking of the attitude of those around the deathbed, Dr. Myron A. Walker said:

Everyone has the right and duty to prepare for the solemn moment of death. Unless it is clear that a dying person is already well prepared as regards both temporal and spiritual affairs, it is the physician's duty to inform or have some responsible person inform him of his critical condition.

It is pure sentimentality to resist the doctor's suggestion that the dying person be told of his danger. Often, says Dr. Walker, the injunction to the physician runs in such terms as "We don't want to upset Aunt Agnes. You won't tell her, will you, Doctor? It will only worry her." The doctor drily comments: "The achievement of eternal happiness is a prize well worth the 'worry' that mention of the last sacraments might cause a dying person." These homely truths are as valid now as they were in an earlier age when the fact of death was taken more realistically. Everyone who is now faced—or will inevitably be faced—by the fact of death should take them to heart. This month of the Holy Souls reminds us that there is many a one among them who will be eternally grateful for the "worry" caused by someone who lived up to the grave responsibility of warning the mortally ill that death is near.

Lazy workers

The gentleman was sweeping and emphatic. "Nobody," he assured the small dinner group, "puts in a decent day's work any more." From the other side

of the table came a corroborative voice: "Yes, and if you threaten to fire the loafers, the union is there to back them up." There was a good deal more of the same that evening, all leading to the gloomy conclusion that the country was fast going to the dogs. Purely by coincidence we happened the next day on one of Sumner H. Slichter's recent essays, "A Look at the Economy," which appeared in the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* for October 2. Professor Slichter, who has been called the businessman's favorite economist, noted that the nation's capacity to produce jumped an impressive 12 per cent, or \$42.4 billion, between the first half of 1950 and the first half of 1952. Part of this gain in productivity was explained by a growth in employment, but the larger part of it by far was attributable, said the Professor, "to an advance in output per manhour." According to the Harvard economist, "the annual rate of increase in output per manhour in private industry during the past two years seems to have been about 5 per cent." Professor Slichter concedes that the figures may somewhat overstate the gain in efficiency, but insists that even after allowances have been made for error it "has been more rapid than anyone dared to expect." How can one conciliate this reassuring fact with persistent employer charges that workers today are loafing on the job? Are some businessmen wildly generalizing from the relatively few instances they have personally observed?

Fast play by Howard

When Howard Fast, Communist author, published his novel, *Spartacus*, last January, many were puzzled that it was published privately. Here is the story behind that odd step, as revealed in the October 27 issue of the *New Leader*. It seems that last December Fast wrote to many newspapermen, some publishers and various friends, urging them to send five dollars each so that he might be able to publish the book. He couldn't publish it otherwise, he moaned, because after Little, Brown had refused the book, "no other firm would publish this or any other book written by me." The fact is, says the *New Leader*, that Fast submitted the manuscript to exactly two other firms, Doubleday and Random House, both of whom rejected it on purely literary grounds. No other publishing house—not even

two which had published Fast's earlier work—was approached. These three rejections were enough, however, for Fast's propaganda purposes. Armed with them, he began to tell audiences around the country that he was a martyr to Wall Street, big business and all the other forces of "reaction." Liberals who were sucked in by the Fast play added fuel to the fire the Communists are fanning in the U. S.—a fire that is supposed to light up the horrid scene of an America hag-ridden by fear, suspicion and suppression of freedom of expression.

The UN proposals for Korea

Ever since Mr. Vishinsky replied to Secretary of State Dean Acheson's bold indictment of the Soviets last October 24, UN delegates have been busily seeking a point of contact between the Soviet and U. S. positions on a Korean truce. As Mr. Acheson insisted in his speech before the General Assembly's Political Committee, the United States is determined to hold out for nonforcible repatriation of PW's. Mr. Vishinsky is equally adamant in demanding immediate repatriation of all prisoners. He also proposed the establishment of a commission "for peaceful settlement of the Korean question" with both belligerent and neutral representatives. The significance of all counter-proposals submitted since then is that they reject repatriation of PW's by force but are willing to come to terms with Russia on the creation of the new commission. Mexico urges an immediate exchange of those prisoners who want to return home, and distribution of the rest as immigrants among UN nations until "normalcy" returns to Asia. This resolution would scotch the Communist charge that we want to incorporate Red prisoners into the UN armies. Peru would adopt the Soviet proposal for a new commission, not, as Russia proposes, to settle the Korean question but to impartially screen PW's. Indonesia, heading the Arab-Asian bloc, would agree with Russia that international law requires immediate repatriation of PW's but would urge an exception for Korea. In spite of insistent prodding in speeches by Richard G. Casey of Australia and T. C. Webb of New Zealand, Mr. Vishinsky has shown no signs of relenting on the PW question. In the long run, whether or not the UN arrives at a suitable compromise resolution, the decision to end the war will still be Russia's alone.

Toward Sudanese independence

An Egyptian statesman has finally had the moral courage, by obvious implication, to credit Britain with disinterested motives in her dealings with his people. On October 29 Premier Mohammed Naguib approved the Sudan Government Statute, a British creation, which provides for the end of joint Anglo-Egyptian rule over the Sudan while the Sudanese go about determining their own future. Naguib made two reservations. Until the Sudanese decide for either independence or a link with Egypt or Britain, the British Governor General is to be "advised in the exercise

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Editor-in-Chief: ROBERT C. HARTNETT

Managing Editor: CHARLES KEENAN

Literary Editor: HAROLD C. GARDINER

Associate Editors: JOHN LaFARGE, BENJAMIN L. MASSE,
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GORDON F. GEORGE, WILFRID PARSONS, ALLAN P. FARRELL

Editorial Office: 329 W. 108TH STREET, NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

Business Office: 70 EAST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Business Manager and Treasurer: JOSEPH C. MULHERN

Circulation Manager: MR. ARTHUR E. CULLEN

Advertising Manager: MISS JANE VLYMEN

of his functions" by a five-man commission composed of a British, an Egyptian, two Sudanese and one Indian or Pakistani representative. If any decision of theirs "conflicts with his responsibilities" he must consult Egypt and Britain, as he must also do in regard to foreign affairs. These proposals may not work with the smoothness of a one-man show, but they are nevertheless workable. Premier Naguib must therefore be given his due for meeting the British more than half way on a question which has soured Anglo-Egyptian relations for several years. Since 1948, when Britain first began to work for Sudanese self-government, the regime in Egypt consistently refused to play its role of joint ruler of the Sudan. Ex-King Farouk claimed absolute sovereignty over the country in defiance of the Condominium Agreement of 1899, while the leaders of the powerful Wafd party accused Britain of imperialist motives. Naguib's pliancy on this question augurs well for eventual solution of the problem arising out of the presence of British troops in Egypt for the purpose of guarding the Suez Canal. With the Suez issue out of the way, Naguib may then come to satisfactory terms with the West on Middle East defense.

News from the Workers' Paradise

Students of the Russian scene have often pointed out that inequalities of income between rich and poor are more striking in the USSR than they are in the United States. Now along comes the U. S. Department of Labor with facts and figures to show that the spread between the lowest- and highest-paid steel and construction workers in the Socialist paradise is greater than it is in the capitalistic U.S.A. A writer in *Labor Information Bulletin* for October points out that the maximum basic pay rate for production workers in the Soviet steel industry is 3 1/3 times greater than the minimum rate. In money terms, the highest-paid workers earn 6 rubles an hour; the lowest-paid, 1.67 rubles. In our steel industry, the highest-paid workers receive \$2.86 an hour, compared with \$1.31 for the lowest-paid workers, or a little more than twice as much. In the construction industry the highest-paid Soviet worker gets 2.70 rubles an hour, or 3.6 times the .75 of a ruble paid the unskilled workers. In the United States the average maximum rate is 2.1 times the minimum. The explanation for the gross inequalities in Russia is simple enough. There is a scarcity of skilled workers in the USSR, and an abundance of unskilled workers. Since there are no bona fide trade unions in the Workers' Fatherland, and no collective bargaining, the law of supply and demand is allowed to operate without regard to human values. In other words, the Soviet Union brutally exploits its unskilled workers. Most of them are on a piecework basis and must meet a quota constantly subject to increases. That results in what *Labor Information Bulletin* calls "a gigantic work speed-up program." The workers of Soviet Russia appear to have nothing to lose but their chains.

BONN, THE SAAR AND THE U. S.

"The United States may wake up after November 5," one Western European official is reported to have said toward the end of October, "to discover a totally different Europe from the one they forgot after the Democratic convention." There are some signs that this is at least partly true.

First, Bonn-Paris negotiations on the status of the Saar have reached another of their many dead ends. This one may be deader than most, for unless the French suffer a sudden change of heart, pro-German parties will not be allowed to take part in elections to be held in the Saar on November 30. This means that another legislature favoring economic ties with France and political autonomy will be elected.

If this happens, West German Socialists, who are determined to block—at least for the time being—the passage of the Bonn Treaty with the West and the European Defense Pact, will find the nationalism to which they constantly appeal given a sizable shot in the arm. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, reports say, feels that he can steer the Treaty through the Bundestag late this month, even if the question of the Saar is still unsettled. Perhaps, but there is a general election coming up in West Germany next year, and a Saar problem still unsettled then could easily overthrow the moderate coalition now governing West Germany. An upset like that could result in the complete undoing of U. S. policy in Western Europe.

On the other side of the puzzle, the French have openly said that the Saar question must be solved before they will ratify the Bonn Treaty system. They mean by that, of course, that the solution must be in France's favor. Nationalism is obviously working as hard—and as blindly—in France as it is in West Germany, despite the fact that France's Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and West Germany's Chancellor Adenauer, both strongly European-unity minded, are for the "Europeanization" of the rich Saar.

Further, West Germany is enjoying a spectacular economic boom. Industrial production is about to set a postwar record, unemployment is at a new low, the cost of living has risen but moderately and savings are at a peak. This is another cause of French uneasiness. They foresee that a Germany tied politically to the West will be in a position gradually to assume economic domination.

This all adds up to the fact that European unity has been marking time, if not actually retrogressing, while we have been through the thrills and the throes of campaign and election. If U. S. policy in Europe is sound—and we believe it largely is—it cannot be allowed to mark time until the new President takes office. The present Administration must now forget mere politics and do all it can in the way of judicious statemanship to allay the numbing suspicions between France and West Germany and to urge them down the paths of unity, which lead not only to Europe's common good, but to the national good of both countries as well.

WASHINGTON FRONT

Of the many facts about General Eisenhower's victory which will busy the political analysts for months, one of the most obvious is the extent to which it was personal rather than partisan. The figures still aren't all in as this is written, but in State after State across the country he ran away from the Republican candidates for Governor and for Congress. The GOP took the House but it was by a fairly close margin; it ousted a half-dozen Democratic Senators but lost four other seats. It was as if the country told the General with all its might that it wanted him for President but was very timid and tentative about giving to Republicans in Congress the power and authority to write the laws of the land these next four years. And Messrs. Kem of Missouri, Cain of Washington and Ecton of Montana, even with the President-elect taking so many GOP members by the collar and figuratively dragging them into office with him, were lost in defeat. So was the able Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. in Massachusetts, but that defeat was rooted in a local condition—the immense popularity of young Rep. John F. Kennedy in Irish-Catholic Boston.

This sounds like a national suggestion to GOP leaders that the country favors the moderate approach as represented by the new President-elect rather than the extreme position which has marked so much of the talk and some of the voting by Republicans in recent years. It should not be hard to recall that the only other time in 20 years that the voters have given the Republicans control of Congress, they reversed their decision in just two years. The GOP took over in 1946 and was turned out in 1948.

There's a mild furor in Washington over the first complete party turnover in two decades, of course, but short of some major world event between now and January, nobody anticipates anything like the frenetic first 100 days of Franklin Roosevelt. Certainly the early emphasis, as is so manifest in General Eisenhower's coming Korean trip, will be on the grave foreign-policy questions facing the country. That is where the General is likely to feel most at home, and he is expected at first to move much more sure-footedly there than in domestic problems. Actually, despite five months of speeches, his hard-and-fast commitments on new legislative proposals are not numerous, and action in such basic areas as agriculture and labor is likely to be preceded by much study. Eisenhower's friends rate him a middle-of-the-roader on domestic questions.

As in any electoral upheaval of such force, some good men are lost as well as some who will not be missed greatly. One of the good ones defeated was Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming. There were quite a few others.

CHARLES LUCEY.

UNDERSCORINGS

Most Rev. Patrick Byrne, M.M., first Apostolic Delegate to the Republic of Korea, who was captured by the Communists in Seoul on July 11, 1950, is now almost certainly dead, according to two statements made Oct. 29 and Nov. 1 by the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. Born in Washington, D. C., in 1888, he was ordained in 1915 and was appointed Apostolic Delegate in April, 1949. When the Red invasion from North Korea neared Seoul, he sent all other foreign missionaries southward for safety, but remained himself to strengthen his Korean clergy and people.

► Only 42 U. S. Catholic missionaries are now left on the Chinese mainland, says an Oct. 30 NC dispatch from Hong Kong. This number includes 5 bishops, 33 priests, 3 sisters and one brother. The *Missionary Index of Catholic Americans*, published by the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, listed 562 U. S. Catholic missionaries in China in 1946.

► *Christian Christmas observance.* The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine of St. Paul, Minn., is distributing posters and leasing billboards to spread the religious message of Christmas . . . The Ministerial Association of Waco, Texas, urged merchants to delay their Christmas selling campaign until after Thanksgiving and to devote part of their displays to the Christmas story.

► The Cana Conference of Chicago (21 W. Superior St., Chicago 10) has published the Proceedings of its archdiocesan study week, held Dec. 27-29, 1950. The preface to the 100-page booklet notes that it is a companion volume to the 1949 Proceedings, which were published in 1950 and are still available. The earlier volume remarks "the basic manual for the priest doing Cana Conference work." The present one "indicates the growth which must always continue." The price of each booklet is \$2.

► The Department of Theology of Marquette University, Milwaukee, will offer a graduate-school program in theology during the 1953 summer session, beginning with the basic courses "Fundamental Theology" and "The Church of Christ." The program will be carried through the regular fall and spring semesters if the demand warrants it.

► The Catholic Information Service in Ceylon (P.O. Box 980, Colombo) asks for Catholic books, newspapers, magazines and periodicals for free distribution among Ceylonese Catholics. The *Catholic Digest* and the *Sign* are mentioned as being in demand.

► According to the Moscow Radio, as reported by Religious News Service from London Nov. 3, "panic is gripping American church choirs" as their members fear they may be suspected of Communist sympathies. The reason: the choirs sing about "peace on earth and goodwill among men."

C. K.

Eisenhower sweep

The surprising proportions of Dwight D. Eisenhower's victory over Adlai E. Stevenson on November 4 proved again that national elections in this country defy prediction. The forecasters figured they could avoid stubbing their toes, as they had in 1948, by exercising supreme caution. As things turned out, however, this very caution proved to be deceptive. The first returns that began to trickle in about 8 P.M. EST harbingered an Eisenhower sweep in the making. Even the Republicans had grossly misgauged the height to which the flood of pro-Eisenhower sentiment would swell.

Virginia, under the leadership of nominally Democratic but vigorously pro-Eisenhower Sen. Harry F. Byrd, signalized this trend by going Republican for the first time since 1928, when the Old Dominion joined with North Carolina, Florida and Texas in deserting Alfred E. Smith, the Democratic nominee, in favor of Herbert Hoover. Last week Florida and Texas again joined Virginia in the Republican column. South Carolina, where Democratic Gov. James F. Byrnes captained the switch to Eisenhower, seriously threatened to follow suit but remained "loyal."

Next, it became obvious that the border States were shaky. Maryland's backing Eisenhower was not too surprising, since it has a strongly pro-Eisenhower Republican Governor. But when Eisenhower forged ahead in Oklahoma and ran neck-and-neck with Stevenson in Tennessee, everybody could see that a major crack-up of the Democratic strongholds was taking place.

In New York City the polls closed at 9 P.M. Since the city uses voting machines, the total results were not long in doubt. Stevenson outpolled his opponent in the big town by only 362,674 votes. It was universally acknowledged that Eisenhower would reverse this advantage upstate by a much larger total than that, so the Democrats knew very soon that they had lost the Empire State. Nevertheless, the plurality of over 800,000 by which they lost it was a shock.

What little chance Stevenson had of remaining in the race lay with Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, California and the home State of the Governor, Illinois. In all these large States, however, the same thing happened: the Democratic nominee came out of the urban centers with pluralities much too small to overcome the deficit sure to show up when the out-state returns came in. So Eisenhower captured all these large blocks of electoral votes. Added to those he was picking up in the Southern and border States and those he was certain to get in the sure-fire Republican States and normally Republican areas of the Midwest and beyond, these early returns spelled an inevitable Eisenhower landslide.

The final count gave the General 39 States with a total of 442 electoral votes, to the Governor's 9 States with only 89 electoral votes. The total popular vote ran in the neighborhood of 31 million for Eisenhower and 25 million for Stevenson. Although the

EDITORIALS

issues were entirely different, the voting pattern State by State very closely resembled Al Smith's similar defeat in 1928—so much so that the electoral vote was almost identical. Over 55 million voted.

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

Despite their overwhelming triumph in the Presidential contest, the Republicans ran into trouble in their campaigns to elect enough U. S. Senators and Congressmen to control the National Legislature. The landslide was an Eisenhower, not a Republican, phenomenon.

It is almost impossible to make a sweep of the Senate anyway. A Senator's term being for six years, only one-third of the Senate is up for election at any one time. Of the 35 seats at issue in this election, 20 were held by Republicans and 15 by Democrats. The present Senate has 49 Democrats and 47 Republicans. To gain control, therefore, the GOP had somehow to elect 22 out of the 35 being chosen.

This they did. Wm. A. Purtell (R., Conn.) defeated Sen. Wm. Benton (D.) for the four-year unexpired term of the late Brien McMahon. Connecticut also elected Prescott Bush (R.). Barry Goldwater (R.) defeated Majority Leader E. W. McFarland (D., Ariz.). J. Glenn Beall (R.) was elected to replace Herbert R. O'Connor (D., Md.), who retired. Rep. Chas. E. Potter won over Blair Moody (D., Mich.); J. S. Cooper over Thos. E. Underwood (D., Ky.); and Gov. Wm. A. Barrett over veteran Jos. C. O'Mahoney (D., Wyo.). However, four Democrats displaced GOP incumbents: Rep. John F. Kennedy won against Henry Cabot Lodge (R., Mass.); Stuart Symington against James P. Kem (R., Mo.); Rep. Mike Mansfield against Zales N. Ecton (R., Mont.); and Rep. Harry M. Jackson against Harry P. Cain (R., Wash.). If Wayne Morse (R., Ore.) is counted with the GOP, it has a hairline edge of 49-47 in the Senate; if not, Mr. Nixon can break the tie.

In the old House, the Democrats had a majority of 230-200. In the new, the Republicans may have a majority of about 224-210. Since the entire House had to be elected, this close margin spelled anything but a Republican landslide in the congressional elections.

STATE GOVERNORS

The big swing to Republican Governors occurred in 1950. At that time, with 32 elections, the Republicans dislodged Democratic incumbents in seven State capitals, whereas no Democrat dislodged a Republican. This year there were 30 contests for Governor, with the incumbencies now divided equally between the par-

ties. The Democrats lost five governorships—in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts and Washington. Michigan's Governor Williams (D.), who squeaked by in 1950, was again a touch ahead. The Democratic incumbent in Montana was in doubt. The trend was unmistakably Republican, but not sensationally. Two of the GOP victories over Democratic Governors were by very narrow margins.

How can Mr. Eisenhower's resounding success be explained? For one thing, widespread frustration about Korea no doubt turned the eyes of the country to a man of great military experience. Other issues (Communists in government, corruption, etc.) played into his hands. So did the desire for strong leadership. Women voters probably had a lot to do with the General's personal triumph.

U.S. Reds in the UN

When Mussolini was at the height of his blustering power in the middle 'thirties, he attempted to give instructions to the Italians who were working for the League of Nations. This kind of interference was rightly protested. It undermined the morale of the League secretariat and diminished the confidence of other governments in the truly impartial character of what ought to function as an international civil service.

The Charter of the United Nations has express provisions designed to prevent a recurrence of this abuse. The U. S. Government, therefore, does not attempt to instruct the UN Secretary General as to which U. S. citizens he may or may not employ in the UN. It neither recommends United States citizens nor gives loyalty or security clearance to those employed.

Last week it was revealed by the State Department, however, that for some time it has had a "confidential arrangement" with Mr. Trygve Lie under which information is passed on to the Secretary General concerning the backgrounds of some Americans working in the secretariat "who would appear to be Communists." The State Department contends, and Mr. Lie has agreed, that the employment of such Americans is "not in the best interest of the United Nations." A few days after this announcement, the Secretary General dismissed three Americans in his employ. These were among the dozen or so who had refused to tell a Senate subcommittee on internal security whether or not they were or had ever been Communists.

The informal agreement with Mr. Lie is only a stopgap answer. Obviously, there is need for a reappraisal, in the light of what we now know of Communist tactics, of the rights of UN members in regard to their own nationals working for the world organization. Many people think that all Communist governments should be expelled from the United Nations because they are subversive of its purpose. That question apart, it is certainly odd that there exist as yet no regularized procedures to protect UN members from Communists who are their own citizens.

Catholic lawyers in divorce actions

The news that Catholic ecclesiastical authorities in Providence, R. I., have restricted the action of Catholic lawyers in regard to divorce cases seems to have caused some commotion in that city, as well as elsewhere. Following a diocesan synod held on October 8, Most Rev. Russell J. McVinney, Bishop of Providence, promulgated in the churches of his diocese a decree which, under pain of mortal sin, prohibits Catholics who have been validly married before a priest from seeking a civil separation, divorce or annulment, "unless the permission of the Most Reverend Bishop has first been obtained."

Moreover, Catholic lawyers are forbidden to represent persons who seek such civil action regarding "a marriage which has been contracted before a priest" unless the plaintiff or the lawyer has first obtained ecclesiastical permission. A Catholic lawyer may represent contestants, moreover—

only on condition that both lawyer and respondent will do their utmost under law to protect the bond of marriage and sincerely contest the action of separation, divorce, or annulment which has been initiated without the required permission.

Despite the flurry in the press over these regulations, Bishop McVinney's pastoral letter was merely an exercise of the jurisdiction over the marriages of Catholics which all well-instructed members of the Church know belongs to the bishop of a diocese. Bishops have the authority to judge whether their subjects are showing proper regard for the sacredness of the marriage bond. It is their right and duty to regulate any practices that might give scandal in the strict sense of causing Catholics to depreciate the binding force of their marriage vows.

On November 6, 1949, in addressing members of the Union of Italian Catholic Jurists, the Holy Father warned that "a Catholic judge cannot pronounce, except for reasons of great weight, a sentence of civil divorce." Catholic lawyers are similarly inhibited in handling marriage cases. The mere fact that civil laws provide for divorce, separation and annulment, often for flimsy reasons, does not of itself make it right for a lawyer to serve his clients by invoking such laws. One has only to draw the analogy of Hitler's vicious laws against the Jews to show that civil laws do not make right what is inherently wrong.

Bishop McVinney in his pastoral letter also forbids Catholics in his diocese to be present at ceremonies in which fellow-Catholics enter upon obviously invalid marriages. He forbids them "to show approval in any outward form whatsoever to a contemplated marriage by a Catholic which is to take place outside the Catholic Church." Catholics everywhere must be careful not to seem to accept such invalid marriages as anything but sinful. One can be charitable without appearing to condone these grave violations of God's law.

Needed: a policy for the Missouri Valley

Mark J. Fitzgerald

THE MISSOURI RIVER, last April, once more flooded a vast area of the Midwest. The damage? One billion dollars. The lesson to be learned? The folly of suffering tremendous economic losses over and over again when all the political, financial and technological means necessary to prevent them are available and need only to be intelligently applied.

People unfamiliar with the facts tend to misapprehend the nature of flood damage. For example, the Missouri, the Mississippi, the Ohio and the other notorious troublemakers do not cause the heaviest mischief. In terms of total annual loss due to floods, 75 per cent is caused by local overflows in the smaller tributary streams.

The dramatic onrush of the flood crest and the destruction of homes, roads and bridges in its path dominate the newspaper headlines, but the actual devastation is far more extensive. There are, of course, the buildings razed, the cattle drowned, the crops ruined. But thousands of farms are gutted beyond recovery by the washing away of topsoil, without which land becomes a permanent desert. Buildings and livestock can be replaced, but man cannot make earth, and every year rampaging rivers wash away three billion tons of it.

Besides, once loosened from the land, this soil becomes a liability in other ways. It not only befouls the stream it enters, but also forms unwelcome sediment at various stages of its course to the sea. This silting lowers the capacity of expensive reservoirs to store flood waters and generate power. It hampers navigation by obstructing channels at points far removed from the flooded area. The Soil Conservation Service of the Federal Government reports that the volume of new sediment removed *annually* from inland waterways and harbors approximates two-thirds that of the earth excavated in digging the Panama Canal.

It is preposterous that this enormous and recurrent damage in many river basins has not been adequately remedied long ago. Clearly the Federal Government has the constitutional power to take preventive measures. This power was implicitly acknowledged by Chief Justice Marshall for the Supreme Court in the famous case of *Gibbons vs. Ogden* in 1824.

Yet this constitutional right was ignored until 1928. In the Flood Control Act of that year, Congress provided for a comprehensive survey of the nation's water resources as a preliminary to developing an integrated Federal policy for flood control, navigation, irrigation and electric power. The Flood Control Act of 1936 charged the Army Corps of Engineers with

Fr. Fitzgerald, C.S.C., associate professor of economics at the University of Notre Dame, showed in a previous *AMERICA* article (5/24) how U. S. labor and management are cooperating to help Europe. Here he shows how a notable lack of cooperation between various U. S. agencies is allowing the Missouri Valley to be periodically inundated, at enormous cost to the whole country.

the chief responsibility for control of floods, because the threat which floods cause to transportation is of military concern.

The fundamental tenet of the Army Engineers is that floods can best be checked by providing reservoirs of adequate capacity to swallow up the excess water-flow and thus keep the main streams within their banks. Hence the Corps has developed many artificial lakes, ranging over whole valleys, by constructing enormous dams.

Other agencies of the Federal Government—the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Reclamation—challenge both the policy of the Army Engineers and the degree of responsibility granted to the Corps. Let us take first the case made out by the Soil Conservation Service.

Any flood-control system which relies upon dams and levees to control the flood waters after they reach the main channels—as the Army Engineers' plan does—is inadequate and must be supplemented in two ways. First, landowners in the up-valley farm lands must be taught to use soil-treatment methods which will prevent erosion, conserve water by storage in the soil, and thus lessen the run-off of rainfall. Secondly, small dams are necessary on the upper streams to check the flow of water from the adjoining land.

The Soil Conservation experts claim the following advantages for their methods. First, the extremely harmful localized floods in the smaller tributaries would be almost eliminated. Second, the run-off of rainwater from the highlands would be checked before it could build up its destructive force in the main channels. Third, the valleys adjoining the larger waterways would suffer less damage because river levels would be lower and sedimentation reduced. Finally, there would be less need of huge reservoirs near the main waterways, and thus many square miles of valuable land would be saved for farm use.

The Conservation Service is not opposed to the Army plan, but simply maintains that the Engineers' methods do not do the whole job of flood control. More serious is the friction between the Army Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. The latter is an agency of the Department of the Interior, and by law has the primary jurisdiction over projects designed for irrigation and power generation. A valuable report on the sphere of operations common to the Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation was prepared by A. B. Roberts for the Hoover Commission.

Part of the conflict between the Engineers and the Bureau, Roberts points out, is on policy. The Army's

primary interest in river projects is flood control, and this demands empty reservoirs. The Bureau is working for irrigation and the generation of power; this requires well-filled reservoirs.

Besides the difference of policy, conflict in jurisdiction brings the Bureau and the Engineers into opposition. For years the Army men and the Reclamation experts have been doing the same kind of work in the same drainage basins, independently but often at cross-purposes. There should be a master authority for valley development which would unify all efforts in planning, construction or operation of water-control projects. Instead, there are two rival agencies with equal authority. What are the results? At times the Bureau and the Engineers have received separate congressional authorization to design identical dams in identical streams. Dams have been built which were suited to irrigation and the generation of power but were inadequate to meet the constant threat of floods. Complex and integrated plans have been picked apart and some items passed by Congress while the appropriations for others were slashed, delayed or eliminated without regard for the effect on the whole pattern.

The Missouri Valley offers a striking example of the debacle of our muddled flood-control attempts and their results. In 1944, Congress authorized the Pick-Sloan Plan, a compromise between the Army Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. The plan is designed to harness to productive use 75 per cent of the wanton strength of the Missouri River. It provides for construction of 105 dams and reservoirs along the 2,900-mile course of the Missouri. But the piecemeal appropriations are being granted at so slow a rate that construction will probably require fifty years instead of the twenty-five originally estimated as needed to do the job.

The reason for the delaying action by Congress is lack of agreement on whether to emphasize conservation work in the watersheds or huge dams and reservoirs in the lower basin. The struggle between the Reclamation Bureau and the Army Engineers is complicated by factions among the valley-dwellers. The residents of the semi-arid upper valley favor irrigation and power as the objectives of the project. They are backed by the farmers of the lower valley whose land would necessarily be sacrificed if huge flood-control reservoirs should be built. Others in the lower valley, who bear the brunt of floods, want control. They are supported by the private utility interests, who fear the Government competition that could be expected with the growth of public power.

A positive attempt to resolve the conflicting interests in this area is the Missouri Valley Inter-Agency Com-

mittee, which was formed in 1944. This association is a purely voluntary and unofficial group made up of the Governors of the ten States in the Missouri Valley along with representatives of the Army Engineer Corps and the Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Commerce. The Inter-Agency Committee advocates a valley authority similar to the outstandingly successful Tennessee Valley Authority, but opposition to such a proposal always has been and still is powerful.

Rather than a Missouri Valley authority, the Hoover Commission favored elimination of the Engineers' activities and exclusive—but better planned and more efficient—river control by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Two factors once seemed to promise success for this proposal. Frederick J. Lawton, Director of the Federal Bureau of the Budget, threw his influence solidly behind it in the interest of the fullest and most economical control of the nation's water resources. And at the time of the Missouri flood last April, President Truman gave his approval to the transfer of control to the Bureau of Reclamation.

But scarcely a week after the press reported that the Budget Bureau was preparing to offer Congress a reorganization plan which would place all responsibility on the Reclamation Bureau, the White House ordered the plan dropped. The Army Engineer Corps has always fought vigorously for its part in control of the rivers, and the Corps can mobilize powerful support in Congress because of its river projects in operation or under consideration in many congressional districts.

In contrast to this picture of folly and frustration due to jurisdictional disputes and factional interests, is the record of how well modern engineering, properly used, can tame unruly rivers and make them serve human needs. The Colorado, controlled by Hoover Dam and the reservoir Lake Mead behind it, is today the source of electric power and irrigation for a vast area of the Southwest. The Tennessee River has been harnessed by a whole chain of dams, and the electric power it supplies has transformed the entire economy of the Tennessee Valley. Thus, two rivers once notorious for their annual flood damage are now enriching the regions they once devastated.

What was done on the Colorado and the Tennessee can be repeated in other immense regions like the Missouri Basin only if chaotic piecemeal projects are replaced by comprehensive unified plans. There is much merit in the threefold suggestion of the Hoover Commission—a top Board of Analysis, a single Federal agency to construct dam projects, and special regional commissions with Federal and State representation to coordinate river-valley programs.



But we cannot brook further delay. Unchecked rivers like the Missouri are washing away one of the country's most essential natural resources. We cannot continue indefinitely to yield billions of tons of soil to the oceans. The cost of controlling our rivers is not a great burden when compared with the alternative of later generations eking out a living on unproductive land. Moreover, the control devices will cause the rivers themselves to increase the nation's wealth far beyond the money invested in their construction.

Father Kolping and his work

Ludwig R. Krahforst

IN A MIDWESTERN CITY, about a year ago, a baker on his way to work was killed by an automobile. He was a Swiss immigrant who had been in this country a bare six weeks and carried no other mark of identification than a membership card in the Kolping Society, issued in Zurich. The police, who had never heard of such an organization, found a Kolping House listed in the telephone directory and called its number. Yes, Johann Steiner—as I shall name the victim—had been living there for a month. Although it was five o'clock in the morning and bitterly cold, two young men appeared on the scene of the accident within half an hour to identify and claim the body.

"What kind of place is this Kolping House?" asked one of the officers.

"A home for Catholic journeymen," was the reply. "There are several hundred throughout the world, and more than a dozen in the United States. The one in this city was established eighty-seven years ago."

Two days later Johann Steiner was given a Catholic funeral, attended by ninety-six Kolping Society members. His relatives in Switzerland had been notified of his death and sent his belongings. All legal and personal matters were taken care of by this association, to which Johann, like his father and grandfather, had belonged since completing his apprenticeship.

Adolf Kolping, who became known as *der Gesellvater*, or the father of journeymen, was born in Kerpen, Germany, in 1813, the last of thirteen children. His parents, poor farmers, could not afford schooling for their youngest son, although he showed marked intelligence. The boy took up shoemaking but, thanks to a wise old teacher, he devoted every spare moment to reading worth-while books. His apprenticeship finished, young Adolf wandered abroad to ply his trade.

Mr. Krahforst, a resident of Los Angeles, formerly U. S. correspondent for a chain of Catholic papers in Europe, now writes for American magazines.

But times were bad, and work was scarce. The Napoleonic wars had ravaged the land and demoralized the people. Young Kolping, a devout Catholic, became particularly dismayed at the corruption of his fellow-workers, most of whom, like himself, were chronically unemployed. During his eight years of travel, he came in contact with some of the most degraded of men. Because of his superior intelligence and interests, he was shunned, if not hated, by most of his fellows. No one seemed to care for the cobbler from Kerpen who talked so much of Christ and reform. But Kolping was not daunted. Daily, he would ask God, in the nearest Catholic church, to help him find a way to relieve the lot of his poor brothers.

Germany's journeymen, during the revolutionary period of the nineteenth century, were indeed a lost generation. The once democratic medieval guilds, admitting masters and workmen alike, had become exclusive clubs of masters and their sons. Simple craftsmen had no organization of their own, no social protection under the law. Many had become aimless drifters and adherents of revolutionary political parties. Others had become hoboes, even thieves and highway robbers. People classed them with gypsies and beggars, threw garbage or turned their dogs on them when they applied for work, food or a night's shelter. A couple of radical politicians named Marx and Engels saw their plight. Finding eager listeners among these homeless wanderers, they aimed their *Communist Manifesto* as much at the unhappy youth on the road as at the exploited workers in city industries.

Kolping, meanwhile, wrote numerous articles warning his fellow-journeymen against such insidious socialistic and godless propaganda as that of Marx and Engels. He appealed to them in speeches and pamphlets to mend their ways and return to a Christian way of life. But words, he knew, were not enough. Works were needed. And so began the long, hard, weary road to his goal.

Long possessed by a desire to become a priest, young Kolping had studied Latin and sociology in spare moments. At 24, when most deacons are ready to be ordained, he qualified for the third grade of the *Gymnasium* in Cologne. Years of hardship and starvation followed, for his only income came from private lessons to backward students. Though always overworked and in poor health, he never lost contact with his former fellow-workers. Once he hurried to the bedside of a tailor stricken with smallpox. In caring for the sick man, he caught the disease, lay for weeks forsaken in a cold garret and, as a result, became disfigured for life.

On graduating from college after three years instead of the usual five, Kolping enrolled at the University of Munich, then the center for such renowned Catholic leaders as Goerres, Doellinger and Ketteler. To these he revealed his aspiration and, with their aid, laid plans for an organization of journeymen patterned after the religious fraternities of the Middle Ages, but founded on a definitely social basis. After two years

in Munich he attended the University of Bonn, and later completed his studies in Cologne. There, on April 13, 1845, he was ordained in the Franciscan church.

Father Kolping's career as a social reformer was begun in the city of Eberfeld. Two carpenters there had already conceived the idea of forming a craft brotherhood, and had won the support of a parish priest. Because Father Kolping immediately adopted the cause of the city's young workmen with the zeal of a missionary, the young society, grown to a membership of sixty, elected him as their guiding spirit the following year. Every evening, first in a workshop, then in a schoolroom, he helped them to cultivate their religious and moral sense, improve their education and knowledge of their trade. He directed a choir and a band, offered regular courses in reading, writing, mercantile and technical subjects, lectured on political science, pointed out the dangers of the Communist movement and other evils of the brewing revolution.

But not only the youth of Eberfeld needed aid. It was Father Kolping's aim to help his brothers all over the nation—and eventually all over the world—to avoid the perils that had once threatened himself. In 1849, he was appointed to a position in the Archbishopric of Cologne that allowed him time for his special mission. With only seven members and practically no funds, in spite of revolution and opposition from anti-Catholic elements, he established the first branch of his society at Cologne, the nucleus of a world-wide organization. Within five months it had grown to a membership of 280, inspired the interest and financial aid of municipal authorities and Catholic laymen, and received the blessing and support of the Archbishop. From Cologne, Father Kolping traveled throughout Europe. By 1851, branches had been developed in Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Budapest. In 1856 the first American branch was founded in St. Louis, Mo.

When Father Kolping died in 1865 at the age of 52, three hundred branches of the society sent delegates to the funeral procession, the most impressive cortège Cologne had seen in years. Some twenty thousand members, scattered over three continents, mourned his passing.

Although journeymen no longer take to the road as they did formerly, the Kolping Society still benefits young men throughout the world. As its founder again and again emphasized, he wanted to help young craftsmen find God and their best selves. Specifically, according to the foundation's rules, made more than a hundred years ago, the Society aims to help young workers perfect their craftsmanship and enhance their value as citizens; to promote the Catholic family spirit among members and prepare them for Christian fatherhood and domestic life later on.

Instruction made available by the Kolping Society is an effective antidote in combating the infiltration of communism or strife into the workshop or plant. By making clear to young workmen, step by step, the technical aspects of their work and the industrial complex of which it is a part, the Society teaches the importance of organic growth in labor relations. Through instruction in industrial arts, English and citizenship, it strives to improve the quality and economic value of the craftsman's product and dignify the position of the individual workman. By helping to give a clearer idea of the interrelations of economic life and the worker's individual contribution to the common good, it aids in turning toil into joy.

Father Kolping did not encourage bachelorhood among members of the Society. In the homey, religious atmosphere of the Kolping House, he meant to prepare the boys for the time when they would have hearths of their own, and families. Kolping Houses are never commercial inns or large-scale hostleries. They are *homes*, where each knows the other, and the *Hausvater*, or manager, is ready to learn the problems of each guest. Here the priest is always available for advice, and Mass is celebrated on the premises. Wives and daughters of older members come to parties and to mother and befriend the stranger. Wedding feasts are celebrated. And now and then, when a member leaves to become a lay brother in a religious order or prepare for the priesthood, he is given a farewell party he is not likely to forget.

The American Kolping Society, whose connection with Cologne is merely theoretical, is a nonprofit organization under the sponsorship of Archbishop Francis Rummel of New Orleans. Each branch is independently incorporated, and is supervised by a local priest. There are branches in New York (the largest, with accommodations for a hundred unmarried members), Chicago, Cincinnati, Buffalo, San Francisco, Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Rochester, Newark, Paterson, St. Paul, Baltimore and Cleveland. The branch in Los Angeles, under the spiritual guidance of Rev. Augustine C. Murray of St. Martin of Tours Parish, has perhaps the most beautiful home of all. Built in 1904 by King C. Gillette of razor-blade fame, it was later a center of Hollywood social life.

Recently, when a mother in Nevada received a letter from her son in Los Angeles, a young locksmith residing at 1101 S. Westmoreland Ave., she became alarmed.

"Son," she wrote back, "I don't understand. I cooked for parties there in 1917—a fast crowd. I had hoped you were in better hands."

"Don't worry, Mom," replied the boy. "We've got an altar in the foyer, and Father Murray is my best friend."



Children's books: yesterday, today

Richard J. Hurley

Once a year we take time out in our home to inventory our stock of American Catholic children's books and the process always leads to a small meditation on the state of such literature today. The word "Catholic" may arouse unpleasant childhood memories of books poor in format, style and plot. The "ministering children" and artificial piety of these early works are but Catholic counterparts of the juvenile religious literature of the American Sunday School Union and the American Tract Society. Our authors have since taken a healthier attitude toward children's reading. Catholic children's books have shared in the general upward development, and today there are many beautiful, well-written books for the different ages in our families.

To gain a perspective on what we can offer Catholic children today, we need only to recall some authors of yesterday, such as Mary T. Waggaman, Anna T. Sadlier, Mary Mabel Wirries of "Mary Rose" fame, Sallie O'Malley, Mary E. Mannix and Father Finn. They were zealous pioneers, but they had evident shortcomings. The prose wants the polished touch and their plots are melodramatic and overly pious. If we are willing to forget literary criteria, it can readily be granted that the works of these early writers provided a good deal of inspiration. One wonders, for instance, how many vocations came from the books of Father Finn. To us, Harry Dee, Tom Playfair and Percy Wynn reflected our better selves. These books had their place, as did the Algers.

Before these authors, one looks in vain for anything which can be called Catholic children's literature. Sister Monica Kiefer, in making a study of American children through their books between 1700 and 1835, did not consider the religious life of Catholic children since she found no trace of it in juvenile literature. Our first venture in Catholic children's literature is the *Boys' and Girls' Weekly Catholic Magazine*, which appeared on June 6, 1846. In 1898, when Kenedy bought out Henry McGrath of Philadelphia, the latter was said to have had "an excellent range of children's books." Kenedy at about the same time acquired the Catholic Youth Library from William and Peter Cunningham, also of Philadelphia. The juveniles now in the Kenedy catalog reflect this early interest.

The reasons for the slow development of Catholic children's writing are quite understandable. There were few Catholics in the Colonies. Not until the Industrial Revolution in Europe did they begin to arrive in America in impressive numbers. When they did arrive, hard labor occupied their lives, leaving little time for niceties, and they had little money for

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books. For that matter, there were few books even for the non-Catholic child. After 1830, we had the Peter Parleys of Samuel Goodrich and the Rollo Boys of Jacob Abbott, books utilitarian and didactic. The "natural boy" had to wait another fifty years until Mark Twain presented him to us in Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. By 1900 something which can be recognized as American children's literature began to emerge. Among the authors, are those few Catholics which we have mentioned previously.

One authority has stated that 1935 should be considered as the starting point for Catholic children's literature. In that year the Pro Parvulis Book Club began to give some focus and direction to such writing. The Club's booklist issued in 1939 provides a partial inventory for our use. In its pages are eighty-one American Catholic children's authors. Sixty-five per cent of these are lay people, twenty-five per cent are clergy and ten per cent are religious. The large number of clergy and religious writing for children is one of the distinctions of Catholic children's literature. As we take a closer look at their titles, we notice that the nuns have devoted themselves to religious themes whereas the clergy, and especially the Jesuits, have provided us with a long list of boys' books on football, baseball, camping, school stories, scouting, mystery and the like. The laymen, paradoxically perhaps, have written many lives of the saints, some religious poetry and fiction, history and science.

To discover what has been happening in the dozen years since this booklist's publication, we checked through the volumes of Romig's *Guide to Catholic Literature*, the *Children's Catalog* (H. W. Wilson Co., 8th ed., 1951) and the late Sister Fides' *Catholic Supplement* to it. Another fifty names can easily be added to the honor roll. And the proportion of laity, clergy and religious is the same. Several interesting extensions have been made of the areas of writing. In nonfiction, there have been a number of books dealing with Rome and the Vatican, and with the California missions. Alma Savage has prospected the Alaskan mission territory. In fiction, there is increasing interest in the relations of our racial and national groups. Valenti Angelo has given us a series of fine stories of the Italians in the United States.

To evaluate properly Catholic children's literature as we find it today, we must consider approximately

a thousand books by about two hundred writers, omitting those authors who have contributed but one or two books for children, for instance, Bishop Sheen, Fulton Oursler, Knute Rockne, Frances Parkinson Keyes, Agnes Repplier and Raïssa Maritain. A careful examination of these thousand titles yields three interesting conclusions.

One is that a number of Catholic authors are among the foremost contributors to American children's literature. Leo Politi, son of an Italian immigrant, was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1950 for the most distinguished picture book for children. The prize book, *Song of the Swallows*, is the story of the swallows which return annually on St. Joseph's Day to the mission of San Juan Capistrano. Miska Petersham was given the 1946 award. Two Catholic authors have shared in the John Newberry Medal for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, Monica Shannon in 1935 for her *Dobry*, and Kate Seredy in 1938 for her *The White Stag*. Among the well-known writers for children are such Catholics as Valenti Angelo, Phyllis McGinley, Hilda VanStockum, Covelle Newcomb, Jack O'Brien, Claire Bishop, Marie McSwigan, Therese Deming, Richard Bennett, Leonora Weber, William Heyliger, Joseph Altsheler, Margaret Hubbard, Dorothy L'Hommedieu and Blanche Jennings Thompson. One priest, Rev. Francis E. Benz, is listed among the authors in the *Children's Catalog*.

The second conclusion is that we have contributed several of the foremost illustrators of children's books, as indicated by the Caldecott awards. Besides Politi and Petersham, VanStockum and Angelo, are Paul Brown, Jean Carlot, Weda Yap, Lauren Ford, Phyllis Cote, Victor Dowling, Ursula Koering and Eloise Wilkins.

The names of these authors and illustrators have been taken from a basic book-selection guide relied upon by librarians in elementary schools and children's rooms. But this does something of an injustice to several outstanding writers and illustrators who have labored mainly in the religion field. There are the marvelous silhouettes of that Sister of the Shining Scissors, Sister Mary Jean Dorcy. The husband-and-wife team of the Beebes has given us many fine books. Rev. Gerald T. Brennan is well known for his "Angel Food" series of little talks to little people. Father Boyton has provided us with Catholic scout stories about the Silver Fox Patrol. Sister Juliana Bedier has several beautiful picture books to her credit. Mary Fabyan Windeatt has written numerous biographies of the saints for "small folks."

The third conclusion is that much of the finest work is being done by converts. One remembers the signal contribution made by converts to the Catholic literary revival in England. Here we would list Lauren Ford, the Beebes and the Burbanks, Hilda VanStockum, Mildred Criss, Weda Yap, Sister Juliana and Ellen Tarry. The last author should be given special notice for her Negro stories for children.

A fourth observation might be made at this point, namely, that many non-Catholics have used Catholic subjects for their books. Marguerite DeAngeli has presented a reverent picture of Catholic Quebec in her *Petite Suzanne*. Jim Kjelgaard has recently written *Père Marquette*, which will satisfy any Catholic by its fairness and sympathy. Saints, the Crusades, monastic life during the Middle Ages, Catholic heroes in many fields of endeavor, have been themes for non-Catholic children's writers.

We have deliberately restricted our consideration to the American scene, but there is for our children a rich heritage of Catholic literature from other lands. The names of Padraic Colum and Seumas MacManus come to mind; we remember Carlo Lorenzini's *Pinocchio*, the nursery tales of Delicite LeFevre and Comtesse de Ségur; we recall Boutet de Monvel, Hector Malot, Jules Verne, Jean Henri Fabre.

Not all books on Catholic subjects or by Catholic authors are worth including in our libraries. But we have come a long way since 1900, and especially since 1935. There is a Catholic children's literature of which we can be proud.

Bonfire

On autumn streets
at every turn
like fleets in flame
the bonfires burn;

out of the glow
of purge in pyre
the leafsmoke lifts
above the fire;

in all souls' time
the time is all
between the judgment
and the fall;

time is tethered
to a Rose
that time can never
decompose;

let penance pay
the price of loss
like ashes blown
in drift of dross;

let incense rise
in psalms of scent
to praise the final
Sacrament;

O time unstemmed
in fault of fame
the Rose blooms forth
in petaled flame!

THOMAS P. McDONNELL.

AMERICA balances books for the children

This is, it's to be supposed, the age of cooperation. The UN Assembly is now in session, plans are afoot to extend Point Four aid, we hear much about interfaith movements, and the biggest block to world peace, we with justice suspect, is the lack of international cooperation by Soviet Russia.

Well, if all that—and more—be true, then one of the finest things parents can do is to foster the spirit of cooperation. I am told by the experts in juvenile literature who have done most of the spadework in compiling this roundup, that one of the most practical ways of inculcating in the youngster a spirit of cooperation is the old and lovely practice of family reading. If mother and father will overcome for a while their ingrained adult habits and routines to share reading with the children, the young ones will grow into a habit of sharing with others—and what is that but a spirit of cooperation?

Accordingly, in the books that immediately follow, books that are recommended for the very young who have to be read to, and the slightly older, who are beginning the adventure of reading, the point to be stressed is the "reading aloud" aspect.

This is not only a wonderful way of bringing the family more happily and dearly together; it is also a method of fostering in the children a realization that what they love, what is precious to them, ought to be shared with others. This, it ought to be obvious, is not only a value that is essential to good citizenship. It is also a value that has, or can have, its roots deep in the Christian spirit of solidarity. If some think that very young children are too young to vibrate to such values, they merely manifest that they do not know how the youngest children can catch—however imperfectly—the dynamism of very lofty motives. The children, in other words, cannot be sold short.

It is with this hope that the following books are called to the attention of parents who would like to have their children grow "in wisdom and age and grace" through reading.

One splendid help to parents in so directing their children's reading is *Character Formation through Books*, by Clara J. Kircher (Catholic University. \$1.50). This is the third edition of an excellent bibliography, the only one of its type. Books of many kinds—Catholic and others—are expertly annotated from the point of view of character development. If you want a book that deals with honesty or manners or unselfishness, for instance, you

have but to look up the subject index.

This does not mean that books on these and other subjects are preachy and didactic; the books listed are stories and tales which are at once good reading and artistically slanted toward some phase of character-formation. This little paper-bound volume is a mine of suggestions for parents and teachers. It has a fine preface by Dom Thomas Verner Moore on bibliotherapy.

For listeners and beginning readers

Two books clamor to be recommended. The first is *Puss in Boots*, the classic by Charles Perrault. Here is a new edition of the immortal story of that clever rake, Puss himself. The illustrations by Marcia Brown are superb in concept and execution, and Scribners doubles the attractiveness of the book by offering it at the sensible price of \$2.

Second is *New World for Nellie*, by Rowland Emmet (Harcourt, Brace. \$2), the story of an old British locomotive that comes to the United States for a long journey. Her adventures, illustrated in wonderful spidery detail and combining some of the finest elements of the dime novel and tall tales out of the old West, will fascinate children perhaps too young for the deadpan prose.



From *A Hole Is To Dig*

Two books on Catholic themes come next. Neither is truly outstanding, but either may prove of help to parents. The first is a picture edition of the *Our Father*, with rhythmical text and illustrations by Joan Gale Thomas (Lothrop. \$1), in which each petition of the prayer is expanded on a double-page spread.

The second is a picture-story life of *St. Benedict*. In twenty-six pages of pictures and simple text, Marie Celeste Fadden tells the story of the father of Western monasticism. Though the pictures have a contemporary touch and a hint of humor, it may be that the saint will not have much appeal to the very young, unless his story is read aloud with some histrionics. We have once again to call

This is perhaps the place to express deep and sincere thanks to the committee of librarians, without whose expert and painstaking assistance this roundup of the best in children's books could not be offered as what we hope it will prove to be—a practical help to a richer and fuller youth for the young reader, to the solution of problems for parents and relatives and to a warmer and more intimate family life.

sad attention to the great dearth of attractive lives of saints for the very young.

Imaginative worlds open up to the little ones in Margaret Wise Brown's *A Child's Good Morning* (Scott. \$2), in which brilliant lithographs, facing a wide-spaced rhythmic text, describe a waking world in terms of a young child's interests. At the other end of the day, *Double-Decker*, by Richard Powers (Coward-McCann. \$2), tells how a two-story bed, can, in the children's imagination, become a Punch-and-Judy theatre, a stagecoach, a pirate ship and—yielding to the modern mode—a space ship. Plans (for parents) for building similar beds are thoughtfully included.

Pretense features largely in *Linda and the Indians*, by C. W. Anderson (Macmillan. \$2), wherein little Linda, who loves to imagine that she is an Indian girl, especially when she is riding her pony, is chased by a big dog and finds herself in a girls' camp. There she impresses everyone by her exciting story, which is much more interesting in the pictures than in the plot.

One of the most imaginative little books of the season is *A Hole is to Dig*, by Ruth Krauss (Harper. \$1.50). Delightfully quaint little drawings accompany the text which tells in sort of reverse fashion what things are for. Laps, for example, are to catch crumbs, faces are to make, hands are to hold, and so on.

The difficulty of telling twins apart lends the humor to Carolyn Haywood's *The Mixed-Up Twins* (Morrow. \$2.50), an easy-to-read full-length story that will make a hit with the tyro reader.

A deliciously scary story is told by Alice Dalgliesh in *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* (Scribners. \$2). Helen Sewell's delightful illustrations in the Pennsylvania tradition match the plot, which tells how Jonathan's doubts

about the safety of the mountain are resolved when he was sent to fetch the big cooking pot.

A tale that is claimed to rank with the immortal *Wind in the Willows* is *The Adventures of Ambrose*, by Rosemary Anne Sisson (Dutton. \$2.50). It might well be included in the animal stories mentioned below, as it recounts the experiences of a mouse and his friend, who go to London to visit Buckingham Palace. There they make many friends and even meet the Royal family.

Another "let's pretend" story with a nice moral well introduced is *Lunch for Lennie*, by Catherine Wooley (Morrow. \$2), in which a little boy, who decides to imitate several animals in the way he eats his breakfast, is recalled to normal instincts when his mother offers him a lunch that could obviously be eaten only by a normal little boy.

Fantasy plays a fascinating role in the three following books. *Gerald McBoing Boing* (Simon & Schuster. \$1) is adapted by Mel Crawford from the United Productions of America's Academy Award motion picture. The hero "didn't talk words—he went 'Boing Boing' instead!" This is a comical rhyming story of a boy who is a terrible trial to his family and friends until he won fame as a human sound effect on the radio.

In *Miss Flora McFlimsey's Birthday*, by Mariana (Lothrop. \$1.25), the enchanting Miss Flora leaves the doll house and flies by parasol to the Puffins' Island there to dance with Puffins of all sizes and shapes. But "home is best" and back she comes to a birthday party in her honor.

Robert Lawson's fine illustrations add to the attractiveness of *Wee Men of Ballywooden*, by Arthur Mason (Viking. \$2.50). This new edition of two Irish fairy tales, "The Night of the Big Wind" and "Coggelty-Curry," is full of wee men and their magical, fantastical doings.

As a fine example of books that help to familiarize children with the ways of other people, *Market Day for Ti André* is notable (Viking. \$2). Maia Rodman's story tells how a little Haitian boy goes down from his primitive mountain village for his first trip to the market, and sees many sights and has an exciting adventure before he returns home. The vigorous illustrations are by Wilson Bigaud, a native artist.

Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire continue their picture-interpretation of our American past in *Buffalo Bill* (Doubleday. \$2.75), which is a simple and dramatic account of Bill Cody's adventures as buffalo hunter, pony express rider and Indian scout, and of his triumphs in the Wild West show.

AGAIN THE MENAGERIE

This leads us into simple animal stories. A lively and witty story is told by Edward Eager in *Mouse Manor* (Pellegrini & Cudahy. \$2), in which Miss Myrtilla Mouse, after a visit to Queen Victoria, settles down to be a happy wife and mother. Beryl Jones' illustrations delightfully match the story.

A rare note in the modern picture-story is sounded in *Snow Bumble*, by Magdalen Eldon (Scribner. \$1.75), which tells how a little Pekinese goes to live with the MacMouse family in a hollow tree, and helps save all the small creatures from starvation. The rare note is the indication of the dependence of the small creatures on the Heavenly Father of all creatures.



A charming story of a mother cat and her kittens is told by Clare Turlay Newberry in *Percy, Polly and Pete* (Harper. \$2); it seems that the tranquil domestic life is disrupted by a two-year old miss who is entirely too maternal. Another animal-family life is *Little White Foot*, by Berta and Elmer Hader (Macmillan. \$2.25), which tells how a mouse and his family find a way into the attic of the McGinleys and live comfortably there in spite of several dangerous experiences with the cat and the family.

In *Even Stephen*, by Will and Nicolas (a Caldecott Medal pair), we are told how a little white horse proves he has brains and outwits the bad men, despite the jeers of the ranch hands (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.25). An imaginative description of a kitten's voyage is caught in the wonder of words and the beauty of color in *The Noon Balloon*, by Margaret Wise Brown (Harper. \$2). The softly tinted illustrations by Leonard Weisgard are apt for the text.

Three generalized picture-books about animals are *Look!* by Zhenya Gay (Viking. \$2), in which different creatures illustrated by the author in soft colors, are introduced by a line or two of text; *A for the Ark*, by Roger Duvoisin (Lothrop. \$2), in which Noah calls the animals, from A to Z and back again in an alphabet-teaching book; and *Go with the Sun*, by Miriam Schlein (Scott. \$2), in which Peter finds out how different creatures spend the winter and why their ways

differ from those of a human child. Symeon Shimin's illustrations are delightful.

A. A. Milne's famous characters are presented for the fascination of the children in new style—pop-up books. A. Schenk has adapted the original illustrations of E. A. Shepard to this novel style in *Winnie the Pooh and Eeyore's Tail* and *Winnie the Pooh and the Bees* (Dutton. Each \$1).

The story of *Jenny's Adopted Brothers*, by Esther Averill (Harper. \$1.50), is both funny and sad. It tells how a black cat finds two waif-cats and brings them to her warm home. Jealousy creeps in when they take over her favorite pillows, but soft-hearted Jenny soon realizes that she has more than enough to share with her new brothers.

A unique and engaging introduction to an out-of-the-ordinary set of animals is provided in *The Black Sombrero*, by Nanda and Lynd Ward (Ariel. \$1.75). When a young cowboy goes in search of his huge sombrero, which has been carried by the wind across the desert, he runs into all sorts of strange animals.

Two omnibuses about animals are *Baby Animals*, by Garth Williams (Simon & Schuster. \$1) and *The Wonder World of Animals*, by Marie Neurath (Lothrop. \$1.50). The first is a delightful picture book for the very young, in a practical format with hard-paper pages. The second is a collection of fascinating bits of animal lore. The colorful illustrations by the author are an integral part of a picture-story book which tells how certain creatures care for their young, protect themselves, live through the winter and so on.

PAINLESS INSTRUCTION

Somewhat in the field of "science made attractive" for the little ones are *The Storm Book*, by Charlotte Zolotow (Harper. \$2), which recounts, with wonderful assistance from Margaret Graham's illustrations, how the approach of a storm, its force and its passage appear in the eyes and imagination of a little boy; *Follow the Sunset*, by Herman and Nina Schneider (Doubleday. \$2.75), wherein, with fine help from Lucille Corcos' illustrations, the very young follow the setting sun and watch as night comes to the children of far lands; and *Sparky*, by Hardie Gramatsky (Putnam. \$2.50), the author who has had great success in bringing mechanical animals to life in his text and illustrations. Here he tells of the street-car who is up early every morning and busy and cheerful all day long. Sparky has to prove his worth when the Mayor threatens to turn him into a diner.

Lastly, Alfred Noyes, who will be well remembered for his earlier poems for the young, *Secret of Pooduck Island*, has come up with some delightful poems in *Daddy Fell into the Pond* (Sheed & Ward. \$2), illustrated by Fritz Kredel.

Young train enthusiasts will like the true tales of railroad adventure told by Freeman H. Hubbard in *The Train That Never Came Back and Other Railroad Stories* (McGraw-Hill. \$2.25). The prose is simple and Kurt Wiese's illustrations are lively.

A gay and original introduction to the alphabet in which each letter is paired with a nonsensical rhyme is provided in *Ape in a Cape*, by Fritz

Eichenberg (Harcourt, Brace. \$2). The author illustrates such zany combinations as kitten with a mitten, rat with a bat, mouse in a blouse and others equally intriguing.

Two "what's inside" books are *What's Inside of Plants?* and *What's Inside of Me?*, both by Herbert S. Zim (Morrow. Each \$1.75). Both are skilfully illustrated in color by Herschel Wartik. The first book is novel in that it has been ingeniously planned for use at several age levels. Simple text in large type is supplemented by more advanced treatment in small type to be read aloud by an adult. The second book, as might be guessed, is a first book of physiology.

Salaff (Doubleday. \$1.50), which will help to while away many a boring minute.

Two good books on nature are *Honey Bee*, by Mary Adrian (Holiday. \$2), illustrated by Barbara Latham, and *Birds and Their Nests*, by Olive L. Earle (Morrow. \$2), which, unfortunately, is illustrated by the author only in black-and-white. Colors would have been much more apt and attractive.

Finally, before we go on to stories, we might mention *Good Morning, Boys and Girls*, by Rev. Thomas J. Hosty (Bruce. \$2.75), which is made up of forty sermons in the form of chats on a variety of religious subjects. It will be chiefly useful for those who are engaged in preparing instructive talks.

A completely revised edition of an old-time favorite is *Henry Beston's Fairy Tales* (Aladdin. \$5). All the delightful original stories in *Firelight Fairy Book* and *Starlight Wonder Book* are here with new material equally fine. Fritz Kredel's lovely illustrations admirably capture the atmosphere.

The Shepherds of Fatima, by John DeMarchi, I.M.C. (Sheed & Ward. \$2), tells vividly the wonder of the supernatural in its manifestation at Fatima. The descriptions of the rugged mountains are fine, and the children's courageous stand against doubt and persecution should make a deep impression on young readers. The story, written by one who lived for nine years at Fatima, is retold here by Elizabeth Cobb and aptly illustrated by Jeanwee Wong.

TALES GALORE

We now come into the realm of tales for the somewhat advanced reader, and there are lots of good tales to commend. We meet with an unusual background in *The Book of Hugh Flower*, by Lorna Beers (Harper. \$2.50), which tells of a young stonemason in fifteenth-century England, and of his conflict with a jealous co-worker to win the master masonship. Medieval town life and the craftsman's sense of pride in his work are well caught, as is the spirit of dedication to God and the saints that marked the building of the great cathedrals.

Another unusual background features in *Boy with a Harpoon*, by William Lipkind (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.25). This is the story of a little Eskimo boy in northern Alaska, and how, after his first hunt, he was allowed to join the men in the more dangerous hunting of polar bears and whales. There is plenty of action in the story, and feasting and frolicking, too.

For the young reader who is advancing

This year seems rather remarkable in offering to the reader from about nine to twelve a fine selection of good books on history, nature, biography and the like. There are still plenty of just good stories, too, so that this section of our roundup is particularly rich.

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY ET AL

A good book—and how much we need more like it!—is *Rich Inheritance*, by Winifrede Nolen (St. Martin Press. \$2), in which we are given engrossing stories of Catholics in Elizabethan England. The thrill of secret passages, priests in hiding, Masses said in secret, and so on, are all here, plus the deep religious values one would hope for.

Dorothy Hosford carries on her fine work of retelling simply and with dignity the sagas of the ancient Northern world in *Thunder of the Gods* (Holt. \$2.50). The line drawings by Claire and George Loudon reflect the dignity and simplicity of the primitive tales.

Other tales, not so primitive, are collected in *The Real Book of American Tall Tales*, by Michael Gorham, with illustrations by Herbert Danska (Garden City. \$1.25). The heroes, liars, braggarts and fantastic animals of American folklore are here paraded. This is one of the "Real Book" series, which are generally recommended to pique the interest of reluctant young readers.

Many informative and entertaining facts are given in *The Cherokee: Indians of the Mountains*, by Sonia Bleeker (Morrow. \$2), which salts plain history with accounts of games and hunting.

To be recommended is *The Louisiana Purchase*, by Robert Tallant (Random. \$1.50). All the Spanish, French and American diplomats and soldiers who had roles in the transactions are

here, as well as the flavor of New Orleans and the promise of the vast hinterland that was to mean so much to the United States. This is one of the "Landmark" series, all of which deal with American history; the series can be generally commended.

Another in the same series which merits special attention is *Mr. Bell Invents the Telephone*, by Katherine Shippen (\$1.50). The story is simply but skilfully written and contains enough technical detail to satisfy the scientific-minded, without losing sight of the human elements.



From *The Dutch Colt*

An interesting collection of stories of youth, told by those who lived what they recount, is *On Our Way*, collected by Robert Patterson, Mildred Mebel and Lawrence Hill (Holiday. \$3.50). Bob Feller and Mark Twain, for instance, are two among the many tellers.

A worth-while book of poems, some frivolous, some serious, all dipping into a child's experience, is offered by David McCord in *Far and Few: Rhymes of the Never Was and Always Is* (Little, Brown. \$2.50). Henry Kane's drawings have a real beauty of line.

Good fun is provided in *A Riddle Book: Words Are Funny*, by Alice

In the tall-tale tradition is *Big Steve, the Double-Quick Tunnelman*, by Marie Halun Bloch (Coward-McCann. \$2.50). Big Steve and his dog Daisy work on opposite sides of a mountain to bore the tunnel in double-quick time. This and other feats are humorously illustrated by Nicolas Mordvinoff.



Twins stories, we are told, have a peculiar fascination for young girls. Well, here is a good one—*Four Legs and a Tail*, by Flavia Gag (Holt. \$2.50), which tells of a most unusual pet, a sheep from Australia which can do tricks when they are suggested to her in Chinese and whose passion for vegetables leads to adventure. There is good family atmosphere as well in the tale.

Fine plot and writing signalize *The Long Hunt*, by Charlie May Simon (Dutton. \$2.50), the stirring Odyssey of a boy's wandering in the southern forests in 1812 in search of his father, reportedly killed by Indians. His adventuresome and filial quest ends successfully in New Orleans.

Emphasis on character-building marks *Meph the Pet Skunk*, by John and Jean George (Dutton. \$2.75). It's the story of how a young boy on a farm learns a healthy way of life and something of the science of agriculture. The authors are well known for their animal books. Good fun is provided by *This Boy Cody and His Friends* (Watts. \$2.50). Author Leon Wilson here continues his popular series by describing how Cody makes and learns to play a fiddle—Tennessee style. Ursula Koering's illustrations are apt.

A simple but lively story of scouting is told by Henry Gregor Felsen in *Cub Scout at Last!* (Scribners. \$2), with illustrations by Robert Henneberger. And a good moral is inculcated in *Jimmy's Own Basketball*, by Marion Renick (Scribners. \$2). Jimmy was saving money to buy a basketball when an accident to a lamp his mother treasured jeopardized his savings. Jimmy's father said he would buy a new lamp only if the boy learned when and how to play with the ball. Young sport fans will follow with sympathy how Jimmy did learn.

Pennsylvania in William Penn's day is the locale of *The Dutch Colt*, by Cornelia Meigs (Macmillan. \$2.50). When a new colt, which Hugh and Gertrude have resolved to protect, is stolen, Hugh follows up the clues and brings him back in time for Penn's return to England.

An unusual story with a real, deep-seated religious feeling is *Benbow and the Angels*, by Margaret J. Baker (Longmans, Green. \$2.50). It tells how the four Angel children, after the loss of their medical-missionary parents in Korea, settle down with a distant relative, a village rector. The children are lovable and natural and the book will appeal particularly to those who enjoy an English approach.

An engaging mingling of childhood memories, mythology and astronomy, with overtones of poetry, is provided by Percy MacKaye in *Poog and the Caboose Man*, which he calls "a vista of autobiography" (Wheelwright. \$3.25). In it Poog, the six-year-old "White Prince," and his older brother meet Zodiack Cobb, the man who lives in the caboose under the hill. Zode takes them on a fantasy-ramble down Huckleberry Trail, where they meet Aries the Ram, Taurus the Bull and other zodiacal beings.

FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

A pleasant little story of the present-day South is told in *Tilly's Strange Secret*, by Christine Noble Govan (Aladdin. \$2.25). Saddened by the fact that the children of the country school know so little about the heroes whom she loves, Tilly sets about getting a school library.

A homey picture of everyday good times in a Midwestern town at the turn of the century is painted by Mildred Lawrence in *Crissy at the Wheel* (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50). The girl's father is tremendously interested in the new horseless carriage and sets out to sell twenty so that he may qualify to open a Bingham motor agency. It is touch-and-go until a last-minute surprise turns the trick.

More good family atmosphere bulks large in *Family Grandstand*, by Carol Ryrie Brink (Viking. \$2.50), and in *Shaken Days*, by Marion Garthwaite (Messner. \$2.75). The first vividly characterizes a lovable family as it tells how the Ridgewood children, who had been delighted to have a football hero mow their lawn all summer, find themselves with the luxury of a private tower from which to see the games. Money troubles for the father and the intrusion of an ungainly dog complicate things, but family spirit wins through in the end.

The second book tells how the Dyke children are shaken out of their easy suburban life when the family

moves to Grandmother's house in nearby Oakland. The little girl is unable to make friends and doesn't like her school, but the big shake-up (the earthquake of 1906), by plunging her into work for others, brings her to a contented life with friends to count on. This is an excellent picture of a united family reared in a God-fearing environment. Ursula Koering's illustrations help the good tale.

Elizabeth Coatsworth tells a good story about Young John Copley in *Boston Bells* (Macmillan. \$2). The plot is an imaginary incident in the boyhood of the famous artist. He and his mother save a young man from a British press-gang by hiding him in John's room. The book, alas, is marred by something rarely encountered in worthwhile children's stories: the author has Mrs. Copley tell a lie in order to put the pursuers off the scent.

A far-off place is the scene of *Red Sails to Capri*, by Ann Weil (Viking. \$2.50). A well-written tale partly based on fact, it recounts the exciting things that happen to a young peasant boy after the arrival of three strange men in the boat with red sails. What happened after led up to the discovery of the famous Blue Grotto. Mystery and adventure and a fine capturing of the life on the island in the early nineteenth century make the book notable.

A real heart-warmer comes up in *Lost Dog Jerry* (Viking. \$2.50). Tom Robinson tells and Morgan Dennis illustrates the story of how the St. Bernard puppy, lost in Kansas City, makes friends and visits many places before he makes his way by long, roundabout hitch-hike back to his young master in Massachusetts. It's a fine story with no sentimentality or flights of style.



Horses and cowboys feature in the following three. *Broomtail: Brother of Lightning*, by Miriam E. Mason (Macmillan. \$2), is concerned with a wild horse who is broken for riding by a young Indian. When the pony saves the boy's life, he is set free and found by a young white girl. One element that perhaps weakens the story is the attributing to the pony of human thoughts and a human voice, but throughout runs the fine spirit of the wide open places.

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story of *Fonca, Cowpony*, by Helen Rushmore (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.25). Young Chip is fired with eagerness to develop responsibility, for his father has promised to make him a partner as soon as he proves his worth. Unfortunately, he sometimes acts foolishly, as he did in teaching the pony the silly trick that caused endless trouble until it brought about the capture of the rustlers.

Ardent cowboy fans will like *Half Pint*, by Jeanne Wilson (Westminster. \$2). Billy Little loved the mare Satin and longed to keep her colt for himself, though he planned on changing the undignified name Half Pint. It was the exciting adventure in a blizzard, when all Billy's pluck and resourcefulness were put to the test, that brought about the realization of his two wishes.

A Score Of The Best

AMAH! AND THE NIGHT VISITORS, by Gian-Carlo Menotti. See p. 185.

THE ADVENTURES OF AMBROSE, by Rosemary Anne Sisson. See p. 182.

THE BEARS ON HEMLOCK MOUNTAIN, by Alice Dalgliesh. See p. 181.

CANDLE IN THE NIGHT, by Elizabeth Howard. See p. 187.

CORPORAL BESS, by Walter D. Edmonds. See p. 190.

FAMILY GRANDSTAND, by Carol Byrie Brink. See p. 184.

HALF-WAY TO HEAVEN, by Ruth Adams Knight. See p. 189.

JEFF WHITE, YOUNG LUMBERJACK, by Lew Dietz. See p. 186.

LADY JANE GREY, by Marguerite Vance. See p. 187.

LISSO YOUR HEART, by Betty Cavanna. See p. 188.

LOOK!, by Zhenya Gay. See p. 182.

LOST DOG JERRY, by Tom Robinson. See p. 184.

MISS FLORA McFLIMSEY'S BIRTHDAY, by Mariana. See p. 182.

NEW WORLD FOR NELLIE, by Rowland Emmett. See p. 181.

THE SECRET OF THE ANDES, by Ann Nolan Clark. See p. 190.

THE SHEPHERD OF FATIMA, by John de Marchi. See p. 183.

THE SILVER MINK, by Ivan T. Sanderson. See p. 187.

SUN EAGLE, by Geraldine Wyatt. See p. 189.

THUNDERHEAD MOUNTAIN, by Margaret Ann Hubbard. See p. 186.

TWENTY AND TEN, by Claire Huchet Bishop. See p. 185.

The one and only Mary Poppins does it again in *Mary Poppins in the Park*, by P. L. Travers (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50). In this one she brings new adventures to the Banks children, but her magic is the same inimitable blend of fancy and humor in which common events take on distinctive, uncommon aspect.

A truly outstanding book which is both tender and inspiring and based on fact is *Twenty and Ten*, by Claire Huchet Bishop (Viking. \$2.50). It tells of twenty French children who were being cared for by their teacher, Sister Gabriel, in the comparative safety of a mountain shelter to which they had been evacuated during the German Occupation. When ten little Jewish refugees join them, the others had not only to share their scanty rations but also to contrive to hide the new arrivals from the Nazi soldiers tracking them. The story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt unexpectedly comes to their aid.

The Holy Family features again in a lovely and distinguished book, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, (Whitelsey House. \$2.75). This is an adaptation by Frances Frost of the opera by Gian-Carlo Menotti which had its TV premiere last Christmas Eve and has been praised as a work of lasting merit. It tells how the crippled little shepherd met the Three Kings and in return for the gift of his crutch to the Christ Child was miraculously healed of his lameness.

A challenging book for the young reader is C. S. Lewis' *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (Macmillan. \$2.75). Distinguished writing marks this third in the series about the wondrous world of Narnia. When a seascape on the wall comes to life, Lucy and Edmund and their cousin Eustace find themselves sailing with King Caspian on a quest to the Eastern Sea. This is a charming Sinbad-Odyssey type of fantasy, with slave merchants, sorcerers, a dragon, a sea-serpent, creatures of enchantment and islands of magic—all the elements to create adventures for the young (and even older) readers.

Two fine books will bring this section to an end. They are *Maggie Rose*, by Ruth Sawyer (Harper. \$2) and *Bright Days*, by Madye Lee Chastain (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.25). The first, in the beautiful tradition of the author, tells a deeply moving story of a wonderful Christmas and how the little girl, named after a real princess, was at the center of it. The second tells how Marcy, who had never had neighbors before, plunges into the life of the large and lively family who move next door. The wholesome family atmosphere, it's good to be able to remark again, is well done.

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Books for boys in or approaching their teens

There is the usual run of books for this age-group—books about sports, adventure, and so on. There is also another category which we will have to treat separately later on—the relatively new field of science fiction for the young. This is bidding to be perhaps the most popular branch for boys' reading—and indeed, if there are space cadets, can the space cadettes be far behind?

Before we go on to that category, however, here are good books in the old traditions, which not even the advent of space ships and "astrogration" has outmoded.

ADVENTURE AND SPORTS

A stirring and virile picture of the life of a Great Lakes fisherman is told in *The Beautiful Ship*, by John B. Prescott (Longmans, Green. \$2.50). When young Eric buys his own trawler, he runs into the antagonism of other fishermen because his father is a Government conservation agent. This, and the run-ins he has with fish pirates, teach him an appreciation of the difficulties of choosing the right and sticking to it.

A superior book that is fine for outdoor and horse lore, for a real understanding of the American Indian and

for underlining the values of self-control and moral courage, is *Thunderhead Mountain*, by Margaret Ann Hubbard (Macmillan. \$2.75). It tells of a boy and his family living and working on the property of a sculptor (a real-life character) who is blasting out a huge statue of the Indian hero, Crazy Horse, from the rock of the mountain.

The idea of cooperation is underlined in *Rustlers of the High Range*, by Montgomery Atwater (Random. \$2.50). Two boys in the Forest Service help round up the rustlers, and when the forest fire comes at the climax of the tale, the Smokejumpers bring home to the cattlemen the forgotten truth that the aims of both are similar.

Vivid character and a sound and direct style commend Lew Dietz's *Jeff White, Young Lumberjack* (Little, Brown. \$2.75). Weird accidents cast a dark shadow over a lumbering section in the Maine woods, until the young boy, working along with the men and showing resourcefulness and good judgment, helps to solve the mystery. This is the fourth of a series, but is a complete story in itself.

Here are some sports books for the young man. Jackson Scholz continues his explorations in that field with *Deep Short* (Morrow. \$2.50). In a fast-moving story he tells how the son of a wealthy father is given a year to prove that he has what it takes to become a professional. To do that he has to learn the lesson of teamwork. A disastrous experiment humbles him in time to change his outlook.

How an inferiority complex is conquered is the theme of *Junior Quarterback*, by William Heuman (Morrow. \$2.50). Football techniques are woven well into a story of the development of a boy's character.

Dub Halfback, by C. Paul Jackson (Crowell. \$2.50), is perhaps overloaded with technical details as it tells how a young fellow tries out for the football team in order to force his roommate, an ex-high school champion, to show some college spirit. The refreshing angle is that the football here described is not a big business but one in which even an ordinary guy can make the team.

A fascinating treasury of sports information for the young man—and for his father, too—is assembled in *Pictorial History of American Sports*, by John Durant and Otto Bettmann (Barnes. \$10). It covers the field from Colonial times to the present; its drawings and photos are superb and the text racy. Sports of all descriptions, from auto racing to yacht racing are covered, and though the price is steep, it's a valuable reference book.



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RELIGIOUS AND OTHER TALES

The Grail is making a valiant effort to popularize lives of saints for boys. Two books are good, though their format might be improved. The first is *Master of Mischief Makers: St. John Baptist de la Salle*, by Leo. C. Burkhard (\$2.50). This story of the Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is told from the viewpoint of a poor boy of Paris who met the future Saint briefly while attending a backstreet school and later on served him when he was trying to create interest in his noble work for youth.

The second is *Blackrobed Samson*, by Harold W. Sandburg (\$1.50), an account of Peter de Smet, a lively Belgian boy who determined his career when he heard a sermon on the needs of the American Indians. Becoming a Jesuit, he served many years among the tribes, was famous as a physical giant and as a peacemaker. This brief biography is notable for its well-sustained pace.

Episodes in the past are couched in story form in *Great Venture*, by Robert Carse (Scribner's. \$2.50), and *Barry's Boys*, by John Hinternhoff (Holt. \$2.50). In the first a youthful laird of a Scottish highland clan sets off on the ill-starred Darien expedition of 1699. After learning seamanship,

making friends with a French boy and an Indian youth and discovering that fighting is far from glamorous, he grows to manhood when responsibility is forced upon him.

Commodore John Barry is seen through the eyes of a midshipman in the second book. The tall Irishman, who believed that discipline tempered with understanding make for a happy ship, is shown as a man of quiet religious faith and true humility. The plot is slight but sea-lore, history and patriotism combine to make a good story.

Animals are really the heroes in *Wapiti the Elk*, by Rutherford G. Montgomery (Little, Brown. \$2.50), and *The Silver Mink*, by Ivan T. Sanderson (Little, Brown. \$2.50). Thorough knowledge of the high Western country which forms the setting of the first book lies behind the stirring action and vivid detail in the elk's adventures that bring him to the leadership of a herd. True artistry with words added to a scientist's knowledge of natural history make the second book one of genuine distinction, as it follows the cycles of the seasons in a thrilling account of a year in the life of a fiercely splendid creature. The author's fine achievement is enhanced by his own illustrations.

Books for girls in or approaching their teens

The good news from the committee of librarians this year is that many of the books for girls of this age are a great deal more solid and sensible than has been the case in other years. Romance, it would seem, is losing some of its fluffiness in 1952.

We can start with an excellent book, *Lady Jane Grey, Reluctant Queen*, by Marguerite Vance (Dutton. \$2.75), who has done other splendid story-biographies for this age-group. This is the moving account of the young relative of Henry VIII who became the guileless pawn of intriguers at the court of Edward VI. She was Queen for nine days before her trial and execution. The character of the times and the goodness of Jane are admirably done, and Nedda Walker's soft illustrations add to the beauty of a fine book.

A vivid and adventurous story about the first Christian princess of Britain is told by Maxine Shore in *The Captive Princess* (Longman's, Green, \$3). It tells how the seed of faith was planted in the mind of the nine-year-old girl by a Christian traveler, how it was nourished by a Galilean slave and by a Roman captain who brought the family to Rome as slaves, where they meet St. Paul. This is a good story not smothered in antiquarian details.

A gentle story that emphasizes family ties is *Candle in the Night*, by Elizabeth Howard (Morrow. \$2.50). The War of 1812 is the background and the plot has to do with the dual romance of a young girl with one sober and one dashing beau. The best chapters deal with the women waiting at home while the war drags on.

TALES ABOUT TODAY

Stories with modern settings abound this season, and we can do no more than single out the better ones. A cheerful story of a fine, normal farm family is told by Dorothy Burke in *Thanks to Letty* (Rand, McNally. \$2.75). After her father's death, sixteen-year-old Letty thinks she and her mother and young cousin can make a go of the farm. How she learns to persevere in the face of obstacles is told with a fine sense of the providence of God.

No tinsel or glamour surrounds the sensible romance in *Hi! Teacher*, by Isabel C. McLelland (Holt. \$2.50), which tells how a young woman, during her first year teaching in a rural community, learns a great deal herself about the community and her thirteen pupils and about the young man who attracts her.

A good and timely story is *Milestone*, by Esther E. Carlson (Abelard.

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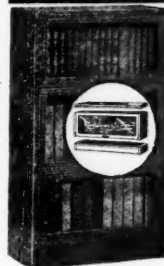
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Betty Cavanna continues her good and popular theme of a young woman's growth toward maturity in *Lasso Your Heart* (Westminster. \$2.50). It tells of a young debutante who comes to stay on a farm, where she deepens her friendship with a less sophisticated cousin, who prudently saves her from a too-hasty marriage, though engaged in a quiet romance of her own.

The problem of sororities is tackled by Ann Emery in *Sorority Girl* (Westminster. \$2.50). Jean Burnaby thinks she has reached the pinnacle of success when she is elected to her high-school sorority, but pettiness and bickering soon disillusion her and she makes a mature decision, which costs her a lot.

Helen Girvan's *End of a Golden String* (Dutton. \$2.75), tells how the spell of city life grips the young country girl as she becomes part of a busy if slightly erratic household. Her ability to make friends sets her on the

road to a career and to what promises to be a happy marriage.

A pleasant story with good spiritual values is *Prairie Shadows*, by Ella Williams Porter (Macmillan. \$2.50), in which a young girl, who at first rebels at the idea of living on a farm when her parents die, comes to fit into the rural community, experiences the pride of achievement in helping to modernize the farm, and meets the most attractive young farmer in the region.

The glamour that usually surrounds West Point in young people's stories is notably missing in *Who Is Sylvia?*, by Nancy Hartwell (Holt. \$2.50). Sylvia, an adopted child, strives to follow the clues that will help her discover who her parents were. The serious purpose gives the book a solidity all too seldom met with in teenagers' books.

The idea of a career features in *Slipper under Glass*, by Lee Wyndham (Longmans, Green. \$2.50) and *Sue Barton, Staff Nurse*, by Helen D. Boylston (Little, Brown. \$2.75). The first has to do with ballet dancing, and though the story is a little on the happy-ending side, ballet devotees will read it eagerly. The second book, another in the very popular series, tells how Sue returns to hospital work when her husband has to enter a

sanatorium. There is much emphasis on the responsibility of nurses and the practical intelligence they have to bring to their work.

The same pair of careers or professions are treated in *Ballet in the Barn*, by Regina J. Woody (Ariel. \$3), and "*Calling Doctor Marcia*," by Gertrude E. Mallette (Doubleday. \$1.50). When a city-bred girl moves to Martha's Vineyard, she thinks that all her dreams of a career in ballet have come to an end. Actually, she makes adjustments to country life, finds a school to continue her dancing, and grows a little wiser in the process of adjusting and learning.

The second medical story will be of particular interest to the science-minded. The fourth-year medical student works as a researcher in her father's laboratory with such absorption that she is on the point of exhaustion. Fortunately, young Dr. Rodgers is at hand to counteract too much interest in a career by some sensible romance.

Finally, a zestful introduction to the art of cooking can be recommended to both teen-age girls and to their mothers. It is *It's Fun to Cook*, by Adele de Leeuw (Macmillan. \$2.75). The chatty, good-humored text is attractively illustrated by Catherine Scholz.



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Stories for both boy and girl teen-agers

Three books with fine spiritual fiber lead the list. The first, *A Modern Martyr*, is a brief biography of Blessed Théophane Vénard, who was martyred in Vietnam in 1861. The story is told in large part from the letters of the young missionary, which sparkle with a fine sense of humor and a love for the relatives and the country that he will never see again. This is a book to develop appreciation of the missionary spirit and a love for today's martyrs in the East. This is by Maryknoll Bishop James Anthony Walsh (McMullen, \$1.50).

An excellent account of spiritual victories is given in *Halfway to Heaven*, by Ruth Adams Knight (Whittelsey, \$2.75), which is the story of a young monk in St. Bernard's Hospice high in the Alps. The routine of monastic life, the training of the famous dogs and the thrills of rescue work are all woven nicely into a story of dedication.

The daughter of Jairus of the Gospel miracle is the heroine of a story of religious fervor and romantic love, *Tamar*, by Gladys Malvern (Longmans, Green, \$2.50). After the Resurrection the way is open for the Jewish girl to marry a Roman youth. There is a very reverent tone to the book, and the New Testament background is well handled.

STORIES LAID IN THE PAST

Despite one questionable incident—the young hero of the book fasts all night in an Indian holy place to solve his problem—*The Last Fort: a Story of the French Voyageurs*, by Elizabeth Coatsworth (Winston, \$2.75), is recommended. It's about a young man of generous instincts and religious principle. When the British take over Quebec, he is sent West by his father to find a new life where the French still rule. The voyage is graphically described, with treachery, Indians and more to spice the tale.

A story of high-heartedness and continual faith in Providence is excellently written (being translated from the German of Elizabeth Brommer) by Kurt Schmeltzer in *The Long Arctic Night* (Watts, \$2.50). It is a true story of the Dutch party under Barents in 1596 which was marooned in the Arctic ice and from which the survivors made their way back to civilization in two small boats. The pace of the tale is breathless.

The style in *Lafayette, Friend of America* by Alberta Powell Graham (Abingdon-Cokesbury, \$1.50), is simple, but the spirit of our Revolutionary days comes out well in the chronological account of the Marquis' life

and the emphasis on the devotion of the American people to him.

A splendidly written tale of courage and privation is *Sun Eagle*, by Geraldine Wyatt (Longmans, Green, \$2.50). When Jesse Chisholm, trail-blazer of the plains, ransoms a boy who had spent most of his life among the Comanches, he finds that much sympathy is needed to help the boy to adjust to white ways. The time is 1839, and Chisholm's qualities as a peacemaker are developed with admiration.

WITH PRESENT-DAY SETTING

High excitement marks *The Stolen Spruce*, by Kenneth Andler (Ariel, \$2.50), in which two young boys set off on a surveying expedition to save the thousand-acre lot on which their mother's welfare depends. Kidnaping, intrigue and near-murder ensue as a gang tries to thwart the youngsters.

Fast action and a nicely used North Carolina dialect feature in *Wild Dogs of Drowning Creek*, by Manley Wade Wellman (Holiday, \$2.50), which relates how two boys help their friend end the menace of the dog-pack and solve the puzzle of the mystery-creature who leads it.

Keith Robertson displays fine dialogue and a perceptive delineation of boy character in *The Mystery of Burnt Hill* (Viking, \$2.50). Two young boys play detective to protect the little old lady who had been kind to them, and who is threatened by a mysterious gang. The excitement of the story is heightened not a little by Raffaello Busoni's illustrations.

Swift action and perhaps too-rugged treatment meted out to the wrongdoers highlight *Trailing Trouble*, by Jim Kjelgaard (Holiday, \$2.50). It concerns a young game warden and how he and his fiery companion uncover a dastardly plot to prevent a forest area from being turned into a national park.

The Fork in the Trail, by Val Gedron (Longmans, Green, \$2.75), is notable for the influence of a kindly, simple man. When the wagon of young Wint is wrecked on the way to California, the boy decides, on the advice of Charlie Clemens, to spend some time by the trail, trading with the travelers. He comes to know the Indians, and when the time for decision rises whether he will go on to California, he makes it with maturity and Christian generosity.

When a horse called the Saint is destined to be destroyed, Alfred persuades his father to let him hide the racer and nurse him. When the deception is discovered, the manager of

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the club turns the horse over to the boy. The Saint is so much recovered that he wins the big race. The money enables the boy to have the operation he so desires, the restoration of his voice—for he is a mute. This tale about a thoroughly pleasant and believable boy is told in *Alfred and the Saint*, by Priscilla D. Willis (Longmans, Green. \$2.50).

A really distinguished story is *Corporal Bess*, by Walter D. Edmonds (Dodd, Mead. \$2.75). It details a peculiarly American way of life in a remote section of present-day New York State and has to do with a boy's devotion to a dog and with a wonderfully warm and realistic family life.

Excellent writing and a deep understanding of Indian ways as lived under the old paganism of the Incas distinguishes *Secret of the Andes*, by Ann Nolan Clark (Viking. \$2.50). An Indian boy of Peru, herding llamas in a hidden valley, with only an old man as comrade, wonders who he is and why he has no family. Another old man of stately bearing comes to teach him the ancient lore, and after many experiences, including a trip to the modern city on the plains, the purpose for his training is revealed to him. Jean Charlot's drawings catch the lovely spirit of the tale.

Walter Farley continues his very popular series in *The Black Stallion's Filly* (Random. \$2). But this tale, which has much too much to do with breeding and racing, is a letdown after



From *Junior Quarterback*

the fresh and vigorous adventures which initiated the series.

An interesting collection of un-hackneyed chilling thrillers from the authors of today and yesterday has been compiled in *Ghosts, Ghosts, Ghosts*, by Phyllis R. Fenner (Watts. \$2.50).

Is the effort to get teen-agers interested in poetry a lost cause? Well, one good book that may serve to save the cause is *The Magic Circle* (Har-

court, Brace. \$3). Louis Untermeyer, the experienced anthologist, has put together a most interesting selection, which includes classic and modern poets. Color and variety feature in the ballads, fables in rhyme, humorous sagas and poems of gallantry, patriotism and enchantment.

SPACE-SHIPS, GALAXIES

Science fiction, as we mentioned earlier, is a growing field for authors and young readers. It's impossible to cover it in these columns, but here are a few examples of some of the best of the writing. It is to be noted that Winston has a whole series of science-fiction books of which the ones mentioned below are good samples.

In *The Real Book about Space Travel*, by Hal Goodwin (Garden City. \$1.25), scientifically sound, chatty writing, plus large print and helpful illustrations by Clifford Geary make the book instantly attractive. In *Star Man's Son*, by André Norton (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.75), the scene is 2250 A.D., as two youths strive to outmaneuver the loathsome Beast Things, creatures whose humanity has become considerably diluted as a result of atomic radiation. It is a well-written book, full of dramatic action, but only for those with strong stomachs.

A trip to the Inner Station, a repair and refuel depot in outer space, forms the background for *Islands in the Sky*, by Arthur C. Clarke (Winston. \$2.), when Roy Malcolm wins the quiz contest, enabling him to see the tremendous achievements of the twenty-first century. *Rocket Jockey*, by Philip St. John (Winston. \$2), is a thrilling account of how two brothers determine to win the try-out for the interplanetary Armstrong Classic and prove the worth of the fuel their father developed. They are plagued and doublecrossed at every turn by the unsportsmanlike Martians but they finally win the right to represent Earth.

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YOUNG-ADULT BOOKS

Here is a small group of books that may appeal to teen-agers who feel they are outgrowing books that are labeled "juvenile." This, incidentally, is one of the most difficult ages for which to find good reading. The youngsters, having outgrown—or feeling that they have—all and any young peoples' literature, are still not prepared to read the serious and searching novel, for example. They are, accordingly, at a sort of in-between age.



From *Bright Days*

This is an area that clamors for the attention of the Catholic author who can write maturely and without saccharine flavoring and yet say something significant to the young people in terms that they realize to be true and lifelike.

The following books are but samples of what might be done on a far larger scale. Before calling them to your attention, however, let's mention that such historical novels as those by Louis de Wohl (*The Quiet Light*, *The Restless Flame*, *The Golden Thread*) fill this need very well. So, to a degree, do such maturer historical novels as Prescott's *The Man on a Donkey*, Simon's *The Golden Hand*, and Muntz' *The Golden Warrior*, though they will appeal only to the most thoughtful.

In the field of biography, too, this same need is felt, for it is but rarely that such a book as Fr. James Brodrick's *St. Francis Xavier* comes along, which, with the nobility and chivalry of its subject and the fine humor of the style, will certainly appeal to the idealism of youth.

These few books, then, simply open up a field which cannot be treated more at length for lack of space.

A touchy subject that has often been misrepresented in the past is nicely handled by Elma E. Levinger in *Galileo, First Observer of Marvelous Things* (Messner. \$2.75). The title is perhaps a little pretentious, but the story is absorbing and a good attempt is made to show that the "condemnation" was made in a sincere concern for the truth and morality. Galileo is portrayed as a very human and likeable scientist, who remained a loyal son of the Church which censured him and which honored him after his death.

A vivid picture of the people and times in Dutch New York is given in *Alexander Hamilton's Wife*, by Alice Curtis Desmond (Dodd, Mead. \$3). Opening with the close of the French and Indian War, the book carries through the Revolution to the untimely death of Hamilton in 1804. Though Hamilton's wife (Betsy Schuyler) gives her name to the tale, it is her husband, portrayed as a very human hero, who will capture the reader's interest.

The type of book which will provide the young adult with good material illustrative of American social history is found in *Plough the Dew Under*, by Helen. C. Fernald (Longmans, Green. \$3). It concerns a group of Ukranian immigrants of a couple of generations ago and how the hero Illya, burning with a desire to learn English and be assimilated into the American scene, achieves his dream of becoming a store-keeper rather than a farmer like his father.

This aspect of American life is rich in material for the Catholic author. It is a shame that more has not been done to reveal to the young-adult reader the wonderful contributions that have been made to American life by immigrant (and, for our purpose here, by the Catholic immigrant) groups.

This concludes the balancing of the children's books for the season. There are many fine books mentioned above. We hope that parents' and teachers' eyes will be eagle-sharp to spot them, and that the young readers' minds and hearts will be warm and happy to give them a hearty reading-welcome.

H. C. G.

THE WORD

"This indeed is the smallest of all the seeds; but when it grows up it is larger than any herb and becomes a tree" (Matt. 13:32; 24th Sunday after Pentecost).

It is often easy for the modern Catholic to see his own attitudes reflected in those of the people whom Christ gathered about Him as His first followers. The occasion of the parables of The Mustard Seed and The Leaven is a case in point.

The little band of disciples was apparently troubled at that moment with grave discouragement. They were few and ignorant. They had no powerful friends, no wealthy backers. Yet Christ was always talking about a kingdom which must be founded.

Literature for Youth



Half Pint

By JEANNE WILSON. A wonderful story of ranch life in Wyoming, and of a boy who was "too small for his age" but proved he was far, far braver than most. Written on a Wyoming ranch especially for the author's nephew, who was just the size of its hero.

Ages 7-9, \$2.00

THE Shouting Duke



By JOHN REESE. The funniest book of the year for children and adults of all ages. The only book in the world that tells about the shouting Duke Bello, the vain duke Foppo, the cranky Duke Krab, and the no-egg cake recipe that settled a war. The book everybody will soon be reading aloud to everyone else. \$2.00

Lasso Your Heart



By BETTY CAVANNA. The favorite of all the teen-agers tells what happens when Texas and Philadelphia's Main Line meet. In this story of two girls from vastly different backgrounds who each find friendship and young love in the other's world, Betty Cavanaugh proves again her talent for seeing into the hearts of the young people she writes about and writes for. A Junior Literary Guild Selection.

Ages 13-17, \$2.50

Line Smasher



By DICK FRIENDLICH. The new tale of college football by the author of *Goal Line Stand*. A novel about two boys whose friendship cannot stand up against the pressures of the classroom and the football stadium, until an "exam" scandal brings them together for a victorious and excitingly authentic football climax.

Ages 12-17, \$2.50

BIG MUTT

By JOHN REESE. A Junior Literary Guild Selection.

Ages 12-17, \$2.50

TUMBLEWEED

By BARLOW MEYERS. Illustrated by Bill Wickham.

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So, in these parables our Lord reassured them. The kingdom was to be built up slowly from humble beginnings. The source of its growth would be a hidden, interior and mysterious power.

The present-day Catholic, too, is often diffident about the task Christ sets before him. Men and women hear the call of our Saviour to develop to the full the life of grace within their own souls and by their example to win others to Christ. They hear themselves invited to a life of real holiness, and they long to respond.

But the world about them is unfriendly to these ideals. Almost everywhere—in the business office and in the theatre, in popular magazines and in shop windows, on the radio and in the conversation of their friends—they sense the conviction that material things are man's most precious treasures and that this world is the one that matters.

And besides the hostility of the world, the Catholic fears his own selfish weakness. Christ's program calls for self-sacrifice, for perseverance, for courage, for steadfastness of purpose. The disciple looks within himself and, not finding these qualities strong and fully developed, he falters. Our age is impressed only by power and success. And because they have not the power of doing great things all at once, too many Catholics do not try to make a start.

Perhaps it was this diffidence rooted in human nature that moved our Lord to emphasize so often the importance of a consistent program of little deeds done in the proper spirit. For, certain it is that He did stress the spiritual value of ordinary actions.

There was, for example, the day on which He stood in the Temple court watching as the people made their offerings. The rich passed and smugly put in their pieces of silver and gold. But the two copper coins of a widow won the praise of Christ: "Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all" (Luke 21:3).

In the parable of The Talents, the master praised and rewarded the servants who had earnestly used the funds, however large or small, they had received. And in describing the Last Judgment (Matt. 25:31-40), Christ shows the Eternal Judge rewarding with everlasting happiness those who had fed the hungry and harbored the stranger and comforted the prisoner and the sick.

We can read this same lesson in the twin parables of the Mustard Seed and The Leaven. They depict indeed the spread of the Church in the world. But they also aptly symbolize the gradual growth of virtue and holi-

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ness within an individual as he consistently cooperates with the graces that are given him. With patience and steady effort of will, sanctifying grace is increased in his soul, actual graces are richer and more frequent, his life reflects more and more the pattern set by his divine Model. And the reflection of the image of Christ is the highest holiness.

PAUL A. REED, S.J.

THEATRE

MY DARLIN' AIDA, presented at the Winter Garden by Robert L. Joseph, calls to mind Lord Byron's assertion that all history has only one page. An Italian opera based on an Egyptian love story that ended in tragedy, Aida, following the example of Carmen and more recently that of Carmen Jones, has changed her residence from Memphis, Egypt, to Memphis, Tennessee. Characters in opera, it seems, are not bound by limitations of time or space, but continue through the ages without change except that they acquire different names.

While the characters retain their identity and the story-line has not been altered, the songs and libretto have been stepped down from romantic poetry to American vernacular. "Celeste Aida" has an obviously richer sound than "My Darlin' Aida," but the difference is hardly noticed when Howard Jarratt breaks into the aria, accompanied, of course, by Verdi's bravura music. If the spoken lines are deficient in poetic rhythm, there is compensation in the emotional force Charles Friedman packs into the scenes of frustration and conflict.

The brilliance of Verdi's score is matched by Mr. Joseph's opulent production, for which Lemuel Ayers designed the sets and costumes. Hassard Short and Hanya Holm, respectively, supervised the lighting and dances. Mr. Friedman directed. All of them, as well as others too many to mention, contributed handsomely toward making *My Darlin' Aida* visually as beautiful as a royal wedding or guard mount at West Point. As a spectacle the production is overpowering.

Elaine Malbin and Dorothy Sarnoff are starred in the leading feminine roles, antagonists in the war of love, and both handle their assignments with apparent ease. They are especially effective in the letter duet, which is really a duel. William Dillard, a runaway slave, contributes poignancy to the drama. The choral numbers, directed by Robert Shaw, are

brilliantly executed by an ensemble of soldiers, ladies of fashion, hooded knights and slaves, all of them with robust voices worthy of Verdi's beguiling score. THEOPHILUS LEWIS

FILMS

THE PRISONER OF ZENDA. Anthony Hope's swashbuckling novel about love, honor, skulduggery and derring-do in a mythical kingdom was last filmed in 1937. As far as this observer—who saw the picture three times in those days of her romantically inclined youth—can recall, the present version is a virtually word-for-word and frame-for-frame reshooting of the 1937 script. What remains to be seen is whether its reception will be the same.

Objectively speaking, the main differences, aside from a complete change of cast, are that the remake is in Technicolor and that its duels have a grim and muscular do-or-die quality about them which a generation not introduced to commando tactics did not demand. The Technicolor serves notably to enhance the proceedings. The cast—Stewart Granger as both the weakling king and the heroic Englishman, Deborah Kerr as the princess who puts honor ahead of love, Louis Calhern as the Prime Minister with a Shakespearian loyalty to his monarch, Jane Greer as the commoner turned conspirator for love—is well chosen. Only the villains, James Mason and Robert Douglas, suffer by comparison with their illustrious predecessors. And the picture as a whole is put together for the family with skill and fidelity to the spirit of the picaresque novel.

In the subjective matter of audience acceptance, however, the film has a much wider gap to bridge than it did fifteen years ago. Anthony Hope's primary values—the inherent dignity of kingship, the "old school tie" concept of honor—even though admittedly escapist ideals, have become so remote from ordinary human experience that the new generation of moviegoers may regard the whole thing as a very tame bit of much ado about nothing.

(MGM)

OPERATION SECRET is a modern variation on a once-popular style of courtroom melodrama. The situation calls for the arraigning of an individual for a crime to which there is obviously a great deal more than meets the eye. Then, as the various witnesses give

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their testimony—which should include as many bizarre complications, false appearances, portentous revelations, etc., as possible—the pieces of the puzzle are gradually fitted together in flashback.

The present treatment begins with a hearing in a postwar French court to investigate the wartime murder of a member of the Maquis presumably committed by an American liaison officer (Cornel Wilde) who, also presumably, has not been seen since the event. In tracing this man's hectic

wartime career, the scene shifts from a French army unit on the day France fell to a dangerous undercover mission inside Germany (complete with poison pellets to elude the Gestapo) and back again to France to record the Maquis' daring raid to obtain the films of the first German jet plane's test flight.

Since mystery is the movie's stock in trade, I should not perhaps give away its secrets. On the other hand, as adventure melodrama the film is too confusing and implausible to war-

rant a recommendation. Perhaps, then, I will be putting its best foot forward in revealing that its plot turns on the significant fact that Communists, even during the World War II love feast, served the Kremlin first and their respective countries only incidentally. The cast, composed mostly of French characters, includes such non-French types as Phyllis Thaxter, Steve Cochran and Karl Malden. (Warner)

WAY OF A GAUCHO is a glorified Technicolor horse opera about the resistance of the Argentine equivalent of the Western cattle barons to the encroachment of law and order on their hitherto unfenced and self-ruled pampas. Made on location in Argentina, the film is scenically stunning and vivid and elementary in its action. But the story, concerning the love affair between an unreconstructed, fugitive gaucho (Rory Calhoun) and an aristocratic señorita (Gene Tierney), calls for an understanding of an alien culture and of complex human emotions which it gets neither from its script nor from its handsome but wooden stars. For adults, some of the resulting situations are tasteless enough to outweigh the film's pictorial splendor. (20th Century-Fox)

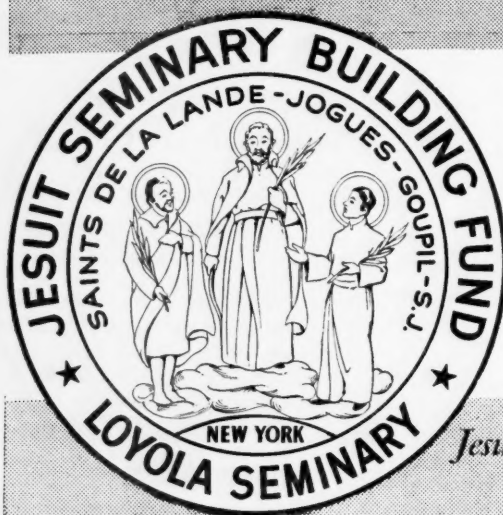
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PARADE

AS CURRENT HISTORY FLEW over the week, it dropped on the milieu little that was novel or startling . . . Tumbling out of history's bag were, by and large, the usual mid-century behavior-patterns . . . Dazed dads made news . . . In Hagerstown, Md., a father, arriving to see his new baby for the first time, walked right through the hospital's glass door. Doctors said mother, baby and father will be released from the hospital at an early date . . . Courts listened to old wives' tales . . . Charging that her eighty-six-year-old husband won't take her out to "places of amusement," an eighty-year-old Milwaukee wife petitioned for divorce . . . Signs of the times were on view . . . In a Nashville, Tenn., hospital, a thirteen-year-old wife gave birth to a bouncing baby. Standing in the corridor near her room was a sign reading: "No visitors under fourteen will be admitted to this section." . . . In Chelsea, Mass., a tombstone firm erected a billboard carrying a painted gravestone and the words: "Drive Carefully. We Can Wait."

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As day followed day, the predom-
inance of the humdrum in the news
became more and more marked . . .
Disillusionment crept up on starry-
eyed youth . . . In Butte, Montana,
a visiting six-year-old New York lad,
an admirer of TV cowboys, called
out to a passing sheriff: "How come
you only got one gun? Western sheriffs
is supposed to have two." Later, when
he saw two deputy sheriffs, dressed
in business suits and carrying only
one gun each, he turned in disgust to
his parents and pleaded: "Let's go
find some Indians." . . . Opportunities
for high take-home pay were glimpsed
. . . In Chicago, police arrested a
beggar, discovered he had \$2,000 in
the bank. The man disclosed that his
begging nets him about forty dollars
a day, and that he travels by plane
from city to city.

Exemplified also was the power of
suggestion . . . In Kalamazoo, Mich.,
a citizen visited a friend who had
undergone an emergency appendicitis
operation. As he listened to his friend's
account of the operation, the citizen
suffered an appendicitis attack, was
wheeled into surgery . . . Professors
issued melancholy statements . . . In
New York, an anthropologist from
California, who does research on the
potential of the female mind, de-
clared: "The accomplishment poten-
tial of women is staggeringly low.
Women should not be allowed to vote
because they can't think in sociologi-
cal areas beyond the narrow horizons
of their own small lives." The pro-
fessor gave tongue to his views in front
of his wife . . . Contest winners were
announced . . . In Lincoln, Neb., two
men won the top prizes in needlework
against feminine competition at the
State Fair.

Literature in the field of public rela-
tions was reported . . . In Louisville,
Ky., a booklet entitled: "How to Get
Along in Jail," was distributed to in-
mates in the county prison . . .
Anniversaries were commemorated . . .
In Chicago, a livestock magazine pub-
lished an editorial in honor of the
100th birthday of the hot dog. The
magazine stated that in 1852 in Frank-
furt, Germany, an obscure butcher in-
vented the well-known delicacy in
honor of his dachshund.

The absence of novel and startling
behavior-patterns does not mean that
the week was unimportant . . . Really,
it does not matter much whether be-
havior-patterns are ordinary and hum-
drum or spectacular and extraordi-
nary . . . What does matter is this:
is a man's behavior leading him to
heaven or to hell?

JOHN A. TOOMEY

"Although I went to chapel every day at Eton, I
never learned that religion was essential because it
was true. I learned rather that Christianity was a use-
ful asset in life, something that would help me to
face my destiny, that would make me good.

As I felt I could manage my destiny perfectly well
for myself, and as I did not want to be good, I ceased
to go to church when I left school!"

Arnold Lunn

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what else Arnold Lunn has to say
"On Finding The Church of Christ".*

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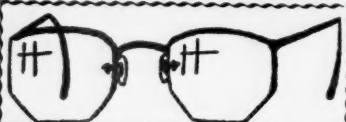
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CORRESPONDENCE

Feature "X"

EDITOR: I think Mrs. Capstick's article was very worthy of publication. I am a senior in high school and my religion course consists in studying marriage. Your recent article helped to show the consequences which *might* result from a mixed marriage.

I do hope that Feature "X" will not be discontinued.

(Miss) PATIENCE MCGOWAN
Clifton Hts., Pa.

EDITOR: I wish to commend AMERICA and its staff for the fine Feature "X" story by Mrs. Capstick. I think her article provides an insight into the solution of this distressing problem—a solution based upon prayer, patience and understanding. JOHN GARBUTT
Zanesville, Wis.

EDITOR: I look forward each week to reading Feature "X." I disagree very much with reader Edwin McKeon's statement. R. R. DE ROUEN, S.J.
Los Gatos, Calif.

EDITOR: Apropos of Mr. McKeon's letter in the October 18 AMERICA stating his disapproval of Feature "X," I would like to ask you not to discontinue this feature.

As a teen-ager looking forward to a married life, I find your articles most helpful in preparing for this vocation.

I think Feature "X" is one of the most interesting articles in AMERICA.

(Miss) JOSEPHINE McLAUGHLIN
Kirklyn, Upper Darby, Pa.

EDITOR: For me there was real satisfaction in Mrs. Capstick's story, as I have long felt that kindness is the one best cure in cases of the spiritually wayward. Our vote is for a continuation of Feature "X."

(Mrs.) ANNA E. CROWE
Graceville, Minn.

EDITOR: Here is my vote in favor of keeping Feature "X." I don't have at hand the Oct. 4 issue of AMERICA, in which Mrs. Capstick's article on the strains of a mixed marriage appeared, so I can't refer back to it too well. It didn't impress one, though, as being below par. True, I wasn't much interested in it, but then it's expecting rather a lot to want a particular feature to appeal strongly all the time.

Most of the time, Feature "X" is a favorite department in your magazine for me. (Mrs.) JEANNE SCHROEDER
Libertyville, Ill.

Catholic views

EDITOR: Congratulations on your excellent October 4 issue. An article of special interest to me was Sister Mary Gregoria's "Do Catholic students have Catholic views?" I am from the South, where every Catholic should be well versed on every phase of Catholic opinion. Much to my surprise I found I was not. If more stress were laid upon the serious reading of Catholic periodicals, surely the impact on college people would be apparent and the Catholic cause furthered.

(Miss) MARTHA MYERS
Chicago, Ill.

EDITOR: I read with interest the article by Sister Mary Gregoria on the Catholic views experimental testing program.

That the test was not received with enthusiasm by most Catholic educators rather startles me. It is true that confining the questions to the opinions expressed by one journal was not a good idea; yet, as the author clearly pointed out, this was only a temporary measure.

It seems to me, both as a layman and a Catholic college alumnus, that stimulating interest in Catholic journals of opinion will help to relieve the compartmentalizing of religion that even the Catholic college graduate is often guilty of. JAMES ZIGERELL
Oak Park, Ill.

EDITOR: Next time you have a quiz on Catholic views among Catholic students, why not add one on "Catholic views among Catholic professors?"

You might be surprised.
ADRIAN F. BURKARD, M.D.
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Our editorial policy

EDITOR: This is to congratulate you on your Catholic editorial policy. I can appreciate your good intentions in publishing letters criticizing your policy but, quite frankly, I find some of them rather startling. Perhaps they indicate how little many of us know of Catholic social teaching and of our obligations as Catholics to accept in all matters the moral law as taught by the Church.

For myself, I appreciate your discussion of issues that point up the Catholic position. It helps me a great deal in making up my mind on candidates and party platform planks.

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